

**JONESVILLE
HOMEMAKERS CLUB
1926**

COMMENCEMENT OF COMPILATION OF THE HISTORY

FEBRUARY 10th, 1954



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FEBRUARY 10th, 1954

Conveners

MRS. SYLVIA RINGROSE

MRS. MYRTLE PENNER

Committee in Charge of Writing the Book

MRS. EDITH RICHARDSON

MRS. DORIS HANKE

MRS. MILLIE TAYLOR

The committee would like to thank everyone who has helped us with the history.

Without their help it could not have been written.



Foreword

I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Canada are compiling village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely in a short time.

It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see what water colour sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories."

SUSAN TWEEDSMUIR.



Mrs. Hoodless, the founder of our Women's Institutes

THE CLUB ODE

*A goodly thing it is to meet
In friendship's circle bright,
Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet,
Or dims the radiant light;
No unkind word our lips shall pass,
No envy sour the mind,
But each shall seek the common weal,
The good of all mankind.*

Editor's Note

With so much material from which to choose you'd imagine that it would be quite easy to begin this history. But such is not the case. However everything must have a beginning and so must this.

Here are a few words by an oldtimer that we thought might voice the opinion of all oldtimers:

"Greetings! from a pioneer of the early days of homesteading in the Beechy district.

What a change from the days when oxen broke the first soil! To go back and see them driving diesel powered tractors. Where binders are a thing of the past and where the sons and grandsons do the whole operation seated comfortably on a combine.

The pioneer mother provided for her family in a small car-roof shack with the most simple of utensils and to-day with modern electric appliances, the iron pot and frying pan are a thing of the past.

We pioneers witnessing such progress, marvel at the development of our small beginnings."

A. ROBBERSTAD.

EARLY HISTORY OF RANCHING IN BEECHY DISTRICT

As told by MRS. FLORENCE GATES

Due mainly to the topography of the country, the area surrounding the present Village of Beechy was primarily a ranching country. As early as 1902, many years before Beechy had sent forth one tiny tendrel, vast herds of cattle ranged from the South Saskatchewan Landing to what is now the Beechy farming district, and north to the Eagle Hills.

This chapter might well begin one day in early May in the year 1902 with the appearance of three horsemen on Snake Bite Butte. Their horses were beginning to feel the effects of a long, hard trail, but the men being young, hardy and born in the saddle, were still alert and ready. These three were Andrew Grottier, Jerry La Roche, and Leslie Giauque. From their vantage point on the butte they spotted a band of wild horses grazing on the flat stretch of country which lay between them and the spot where Beechy now stands. Some excitement and a fresh horse apiece! Quietly the three slid down the butte and began to fan out, circling the little band. With ropes down and ready the riders circled closer till the horses broke and ran. Then each rider chose a horse and ran him down. Andrew's rope made the first catch. Les front footed and hog tied him, then after the fleeing horses which Jerry still pursued. This time Les' rope tightened around the neck of a little black stallion. He was likewise hog-tied then away again for a mount for Jerry. Then one by one three wild horses were to be saddled, blind-folded, mounted and ridden to a sweating heaving standstill. Such an incident was only to quicken the blood of cowboys and break the dull monotony of those far-off days when men were men, and horses were more than gold.

Though not necessarily the most colorful character, the undisputed cattle king of Beechy district was the late Robert Cruickshank. Originally he was on the old 76 Ranch at Rush Lake, but very shortly after the turn of the century about 1902 I believe, he contracted to graze a herd of Double Triangle steers. These were real Texas longhorns, ranging in age from three to five years. Legend has it that the herd numbered anywhere from two thousand to

pushed them across the river, allowing them to spread far and wide. All summer they fattened on the lush prairie wool of that lovely hill country stretching from the river far to the north and east and west. The last big round-up of these steers came in the fall of 1904. Every big cattle outfit in the country had a representative there to get any of their cattle that might be gathered in the general round-up.

That was a round-up such as we only read about now. There were four stout broncs hitched to the chuck wagon and four pulled the bed wagon. Joe Case, who hailed from Texas, was wagon boss. Harry White, well known later at the Landing, drove the bed wagon. When his team took fright and bolted across the hummochy end of a large slough, you may be sure there were bed rolls and gear flying in all directions. Such old-timers as Sebe Jones, Jim Fields, Webster (later of Imperial Hotel in Swift Current) were riding. The days were filled with the smell of sweating horse flesh and the sound of creaking saddle leather. At night one by one they left the fire or the chuck wagon to spread their rolls under the stars, to be serenaded by the lonesome wail of the coyote. No serenade was needed to induce slumber for the bacon would be sizzling in the pan before dawn on the following day. A motley crew they were, having drifted to this new frontier from many distant states and for many different reasons.

There was for instance the swarthy individual whom they called Arkansaw, for want of another name, since he offered none. 'Twasn't deemed polite in those days to ask a stranger's name. There was also a "kid" with the outfit. He, having a new six shooter, and having been practicing diligently, thought himself quite good. So he offered to shoot with Arkansaw, a dollar a shot. Setting up a biscuit a good fifty yards distant, Arkansaw blew it to bits. The "kid" thought 'twas an accident. He knew it would be if he hit it. But after the older man had blown two or three biscuits apart, he decided that Arkansaw was a good shot. Later it was discovered that the man was an escaped convict, a horse thief from Mexico.

When the government opened up grassland for lease to ranchers, Bob Cruickshank was in a position to lease and stock a large tract of land stretching down from the north side of the South Saskatchewan River, where he built his winter camp, to the summer range, which is situated North and West of Beechy. Here Bob ran hundreds of white-faced cattle for many years. Upon his death in 1932, the ranch was sold to pass forever out of Cruickshank hands. But the name of Robert Cruickshank and the names of some of the men who worked for him throughout the years, will live as long and longer than the oldest of Beechy's oldtimers.

From Texas Turkey Truck Ranch came the man who was Bob's ranch foreman for many years. He



Branding at Slim Gates Ranch, 1947.

three thousand head. Suffice to say that the herd was very large, and that Bob, the doughty Scot,

finally settled on a piece of land adjoining the Cruickshank summer camp. Sam Barton did more farming than ranching but he always kept a small herd of cattle and sat his horse as well as any. Sam raised mules for two years on spec but found they didn't sell so discontinued raising them. He was known as a square shooter and a hard worker and the community of Beechy was saddened when he died a tragic death. They were working cattle in the early 1930's when a bolt of lightning struck Sam



Taken at the Jensen Ranch Summer Camp before there were fences.

from his horse. The end came to him as I know he would have wanted it — with his feet in the stirrups and his working boots on.

Also from the Lone Star State came Wm. (Bill) Bullock. He came into Canada with the Turkey Track outfit also, later to join Cruickshank's employ. To quote from a letter from Bill, "I started working for Bob on the Twenty-fourth of August, 1903". Ever a man of keen wit and acute mind, he would remember the very day of the month! He worked for this same outfit off and on for fourteen years, part of the time as foreman. His wages ranged from forty dollars a month to sixty-five, with board. Never did cowboy work more zealously for the boss' good. It mattered not that the night before had seen much celebrating. Four o'clock found Bill a-stirring. Many a man, his boss not excluded, has felt the whiplash of his tongue. A story I like to recall is of Bill and a lad fresh from his Mother's tender teachings and very new to life on the range. Bill had been to Beechy for supplies that day and upon his return had baked the usual baking powder biscuits, fried the potatoes, boiled the coffee. He no sooner had his feet under the table than he began to eat. Whereupon the young fellow said aghast, "Mr. Bullock, aren't you going to offer thanks for this food?" Bill fixed the poor boy with his one good eye and replied in an acid tone, "I hauled this grub in here, I paid for it and I cooked it. Now I'd like to know who in h- - - I have to thank for it". Bill was eighty-seven years old last June, 1954 and at the time of this writing, spending his days of retirement in the Eventide Home in Saskatoon. May your mounts be gentle and willing from here on in, old friend.

Farming near Sam Barton until his recent retirement, was that big, kind hearted Dutchman, John Schotanus. Though not a rancher himself, he was nonetheless connected with both the Matador and

Cruickshank Ranches for many years. Prior to 1911, when they started growing oats on the flats, John put up thousands of tons of hay for the Matador. With horse equipment and a crew of four men and a cook, he stacked an average of eight hundred tons a year. At least two-thirds of this would be "prairie wool", a very fine grass and superb winter feed which is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. John also worked for Cruickshanks for years, the last in 1916. But Bob's hay was mostly stacked under contract with such men as Victor Fleuter, John Johnson and Chris Rudd. Life was hard and often crude in those days. But it bred in men and women alike, a spirit of good fellowship that I am afraid will never again be caught. I am minded of a time this same John, no longer young took his life in his hands out of concern for a responsibility not really his. By team and sleigh an expectant mother and her two year old daughter had been brought to him from a ranch some twelve miles further back in the hills. 'Twas mid winter, and with no near neighbour, it was deemed wise to move nearer the settlement well in advance of her time. Now it happened John was alone when his self invited family arrived, his wife being away on a vacation. Also John had to go to Beechy, some fourteen miles likewise by team and sleigh. Before he could make the return trip, a terrible storm blew up, with a raging wind and driving sleety snow. The young mother, herself the daughter of a pioneer, knowing he would face the storm to get home, was satisfied that he would remain in town. She was preparing to go out and milk his cows



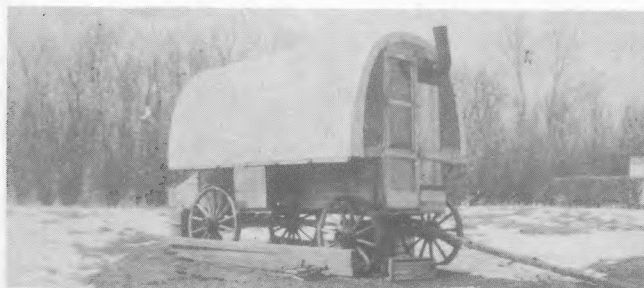
Art Jensen in early 20's.

when he came in — a veritable snowman. When asked why he didn't remain in town he replied, "Mine Gott, girl! If I hadn't come home and anything had happened to you, I'd never have forgiven myself". Such was the willingness of the oldtimers to take a friend's responsibilities as their own.

Although almost out of the Beechy district, having homesteaded a few miles east of Clearwater Lake, the La Plante brothers, Pete and Isadore, made Beechy their town before the railroad came to Kyle and Matador. Pete and Isadore were neither farmers nor ranchers, but smacked of the old couerier-de-bois of Eastern Canada. They were Metis, being of mixed French and Indian blood. Both were big, dark men, powerfully built. In winter they hunted, trapped and did much visiting between

the ranches. In summer they worked a few days here and a few days there. Pete was the more steady of the two and eventually went to Meadow Lake where he died a few years ago. It has been said that Isadore, even almost to the time of his death, could stalk an antelope till he could shoot it with his twenty-two rifle. To him, "By Dam!" there was always open season. When properly lubricated Isadore always wanted to dance the Red River jig, which he did admirably well in spite of his size. Many a time we children have sat and watched while Isadore stepped to the tune of a fast jig on Dad's old fiddle, have watched spellbound while his big flying feet made the rafters in the old ranch house ring. In his later years, they sent him to an old folks home in Moose Jaw. But Isadore returned, to die near his old hunting ground.

Cars were few and far between in those days. Indeed the roads were such that travel on horseback was safest. However, there was Mother and the bairns to think about, so travel was often by team and buckboard or team and sleigh or "jumper". The "jumper" was one set of runners, usually from the bob sleigh, with some sort of box fastened quite often most insecurely, on top. Hitch to that a fast team of broncos, take off over the snow drifts, and you have a jumper indeed. There were no telephones or radios at all, of course, but still there was plenty of fun. A summer picnic was very apt to turn into a small stampede. They were stampedes, not rodeos, then. Familiar figures at these affairs was a trio of riders from nearby High Point. George Pyne, tall and weather beaten is now with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Leslie Giaugue, small but tough, is



Original Sheep-Wagon Jensen Ranch.

at the present time retired in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. Carl Bruce, the tall, handsome cowboy with the fascinating southern drawl, soon found that ranching on the windswept prairie was not for him. He has been in Los Angeles, California for many years past and until a very recent accident, has been breaking and training horses there for riding academies and private individuals. A very bad fall with a horse necessitated the amputation of one leg above the knee, ending for Carl Bruce a long career on horseback.

The Hanging J Ranch

As told by BYRON CLARK

Mr. Lenard Jensen and family moved to the Lance Valley district in the fall of 1912. Camping

Page eight

near Pikes Peak which is four miles north of Lance Valley. Mr. Jensen chose this spot because it is well sheltered and has a running spring. Incidentally on a clear day now you can count twenty towns from the top of this hill. In the early spring of 1913 he moved about five miles South-West and ranched what is known as the hanging J Ranch. For a few years Mr. Jensen and his boys Art and Bob had to herd open range. They took in herd stock from all around the country, as far away as Outlook, and many's the time the boys herded cattle across the



Art Jensen on bucking horse and Bob Jensen.

Saskatchewan river. The first few years on the ranch they hauled their supplies from Gilroy. As years went by they fenced on the Ranch completely and by a great deal of hard work they dug two miles of ditch in order to have running water. This ditch empties into Stinking Lake and is still running today. Art the younger of the Jensen boys became a very capable cattle man and a handler of horses and often won honors in "bronc busting" against champion riders from other provinces and the States.

More About Ranching

As told by P. J. PERRIN

In compiling data for history of ranching in this area, the Cruickshank ranch possibly comes foremost, Cruickshank being a large operator, also one of the earliest. He first operated at Rush Lake, later moving to a site on the river but still staying on the south side. Very early in the nineteen hundreds he chose the location north of the river, later to be in the Beechy district. This winter range consisted of some 12 or 15 miles of river front. In the years from 1912 to 1914 he was fencing a large lease northwest of where Beechy was to be. This area was used as summer range, the two ranges adding up to approximately 40,000 acres. Hauling material for the building up of such a ranch was a tremendous job in itself as it mostly had to be freighted from Rush Lake.

Cruickshank was a very successful ranch operator with top grade cattle, herefords usually predominating, where widely known. Apart from the cow business, he usually ran a considerable number of Clydesdale horses. The brand most extensively used on both cattle and horses being the 6T. The W was used on some cattle.

The ups and downs of the ranch were many

and varied. The winter of 1906-07 being possibly the first bad set back. Cruick related many times how that terrible winter led to the loss of about 540 cattle, about 50% of what he then owned. In the fall of 1915 practically all of the summer range was burned by a prairie fire. During the winter of 1916-17, John Schotanus was in charge when an epidemic of blackleg broke out. By the time John was able



The late Covert Cruickshank

to get vaccine shipped up from Moose Jaw to be picked up at Rush Lake, the disease had taken 50 head of calves.

Another chore the ranchers were confronted with, especially in and around the years from 1911-1917 was, that of dipping cattle for mange. The mange, causing animals to lose their hair, to possibly die then of exposure in cold weather. The only dipping vats in this area, to the writers knowledge, was one at the Matador and two on Cruickshanks, one at the winter quarters and one on the summer range. The vats were usually made for the swim method, with sulphur being used for the dip. Usually a steam engine was used as the dip was heated. Government range inspectors patrolled the ranches and sometimes upon the inspector finding only one or two mange cattle, the owner would be compelled to dip his whole herd. Nevertheless, the method of control must have been quite effective to eradicate the disease as they did.

Some of the most remembered personal linked with the ranch were: Bill Bullock, Mr. and Mrs. John Schotanus, Percy Merrison, J. B. Jones, Sam Barton, Henry Johnson and Paul Rautenburg.

After Cruickshank passed on, the ranch was operated for a short time by Robert Junior, then sold to Minor Bros. of Abbey and Medicine Hat in the middle thirties, C. M. "Dooley" Allen being their manager. In 1950 the ranch was bought by Perrin Ranching Co. Ltd.; but prior to this, the summer lease had been sold to Canadian Co-Operative Processors Ltd. to be used by them for a range for surplus horses. This proved unsatisfactory however, so the Provincial Government then took it over to serve as a Community pasture for the livestock in the area.

The Matador, with ranch headquarters seven miles from Saskatchewan Landing, can come under

Beechy history as its vast lease extended well into Beechy territory. A brief history of that famous company may be fitting. The Matador Land & Cattle Co. organized on 1882, home office in the States at Trinidad, Colo. By 1891 the Matadors were running 65,000 cattle wearing their "drag vee". They operated ranches in Texas, the Dakotas and Montana. Soon after the turn of the century, they secured at lease on approximately 140,000 acres in then, the North West Territories. The south boundary of this lease was the South Saskatchewan river for twenty miles. East of the headquarters camp, twelve miles, was the old Dug Out camp which they used for a winter camp. I may say here, that this camp was operated before the Matadors came in by the Q outfit, owned by a man with the name of Craemer. It is understood that the Q were not in here for many years. They were a horse outfit and held no lease. They were in when there was not much need of fences so the range for their hundreds of horses was unlimited.

For various reasons the Matadors abandoned the Canadian lease in about 1921. The Matadors first manager here was Dave Summerville, with J. R. "Legs" Lair taking over in 1912. Other prominent personnel were: Tom "Cy" Thornton, Barney Hanson, Bill Bullock, Marvin Swink and others of course too numerous to mention.

Soon after this, the Matador Community pasture was organized to serve the purpose of supplying grazing for hundreds of farmers and ranchers within a radius of sometimes up to and well over 50 miles, some years running up to 6,000 cattle and several hundred horses. The first pasture manager being Geo. L. Valentine. Patrons also annually put up tons of hay to assure a supply of winter feed for their livestock.

Owing to the fact that the old Matador Company ran a wagon to care for their stock on the



McNeal; Wm. Bullock; R. Cruickshank; Dyer; S. Barton

Canadian lease, and as their stock was shipped in from their States holdings, and consisted of a beef herd only, it was not necessary to have their range land cut up in small fields. Therefore, when the Department of Agriculture took over the old Matador Range, the north portion of the lease consisted of one field that contained three townships or 69,120 acres.

When the Community Pasture was started for grazing stock from such a large number of patrons, it was then necessary to do cross fencing to facilitate the convenient handling of breeding stock, beef, etc.

Although fields were made smaller, there were still two fields left containing a solid township each. One of these was broken into when the Hudson's Bay Company sold three quarter sections out of it for farming purposes some years ago. The other field containing the township, or 23,040 acres of solid grass land, stood out as a monument to the passing of the west in this part of the country, until



R. Cruickshank, J. Schotanus, S. Barton

the spring of 1942, when the last township field was cut into and four sections of it were taken for farming purposes. Four sections is a very small portion of the total Matador Range which consisted of approximately six townships, but the last field consisting of a whole township on that range had now a chip broken from its corner and its township fields of grass are now gone and something of the past.

Although still operating the same, it does have a much smaller grazing capacity as the two large Co-Operative farms have been established.

Other smaller operators, but certainly ones that depended mainly on grass and range for their livelihood, were, Merrison Bros. Bill and Percy; La Plante Bros. the big Metis, Pete and Isadore; Bill Smith,



Matador Round-Up Wagons, 1921

Geo. Pyne, Swans and Giauque. These places were in the rough country to the west of Beechy and many used towns west after the C.P. came in, but all used Beechy for some time.

Regardless of whether ranches and ranching is being written about or talked about, the weather

usually enters into the picture, as, weather after all, is more or less at times, the deciding factor in determining the difference as to the color of the ink the ledger may be balanced with. Two October storms will be remembered. The October storm in 1930 was severe to the extreme. The storm started by the evening of the 13th, the day being warm and balmy, with practically no hint of the severe storm approaching, but the morning of the 14th was ushered in with a howling blizzard. It lasted for three days and turned cold after. Had it not started so warm and wet, it may not have been so fatal for livestock. Scores of cattle practically starved and perished where feed was plentiful. Apparently after the icing got so bad on them that they could not see, they gave up trying to drift with the storm or hunting for fodder. I was told by Bill Bullock that after the storm, while gathering cattle for Alf. Mason, that cattle were found standing in fields of stooked oats that they had not touched, owing to the fact of being blinded by ice and of course chilled to the marrow. No less than 25 head of cattle from Masons summer range perished. On the second day of the storm, two riders rode out a couple of miles from the Matador summer camp to cut the wires in a fence corner where some 1500 cattle were bunched,



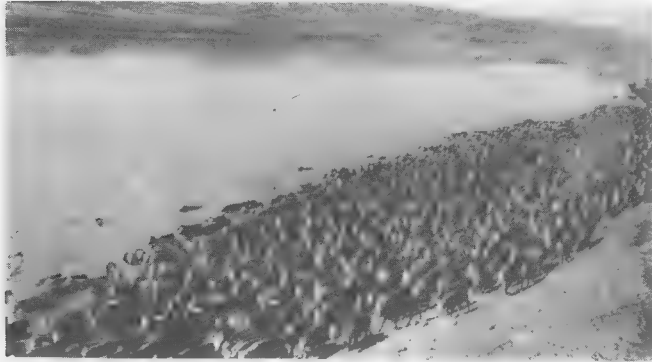
Matador shipping from Waldeck, 1912.

bawling and some dying. The large percentage of that bunch drifted probably six or seven miles to get into the river breaks and shelter. After the storm cleared, that was a gruesome trail to follow. As near as could be estimated, the loss was 183 head, with by far the most loss being from the bunch of 1500. Other bunches luckily in better sheltered fields suffered much lighter losses. Proof of the bitterness of the cold for that time of year was proven when on October 19th several saddle horses from the Jahnke ranch south of the river, were crossed north on the ice to help with the tremendous job of starting a roundup at the Cruickshank ranch and getting the scattered cattle from the river breaks west to the Matador headquarters, a distance of approximately 25 miles.

If Billy Merrison's memory serves him right, October 8th, 1919 was the date of another very bad storm with the mercury dropping to below zero after. The Matadors were caught in that storm, shipping beef from Wiseton. The severity of the storm caused the death of one of their chuckwagon horses and two or three saddle horses. The snow

became so deep on their return journey back to the river that they abandoned their roundup wagons at a little camp a few miles southeast of Merrisons and had sleighs come up from the ranch to move in the supplies.

In the early years, fires were a serious hazard,



Matador moving cattle across the River, 1921.

hence miles of fireguards were plowed. Besides many other miles of guard, Cruickshank ran a guard from Minnie Lake north along his summer range. A Government fire guard we understand started at the river near Saskatchewan Landing, ran north past Clearwater Lake, east to Minnie Lake and then angled off southeast to hit the river again in the Snake Bite area.

The fireguarding in the Matador alone, consisted of 48 miles of double guard or 96 single. The guards were spaced several yards apart, but each guard was 6 or 8 feet wide. Fireguarding was usually done by tenders. The contractors always doing the work with plows.

Stories of Pleasant Butte

As told by CLARENCE JOHNSON

The old timers of Pleasant Butte Flat want to give a word of praise to Mr. and Mrs. Tipping who filed on their land in 1909. They were great workers for both the school and church and through their



Going for a drive, 1912.

efforts with the help of neighbors got the school in 1912. Kennet Rapple was the first teacher. As in all schools, church was held there also dances, wed-

dings and funerals. Alex Buchanan and Inga Evenson were married there as well as George Evenson and Wanda Stockman. A mile south of there was the grave yard. Mrs. Anton Hundebly worked hard to get the grave yard. In the spring of 1915 the fence was built around it and on July 25th, 1915 Mrs. Anton Hundebly was buried there — the first to be buried in the grave yard she'd worked so hard to get.

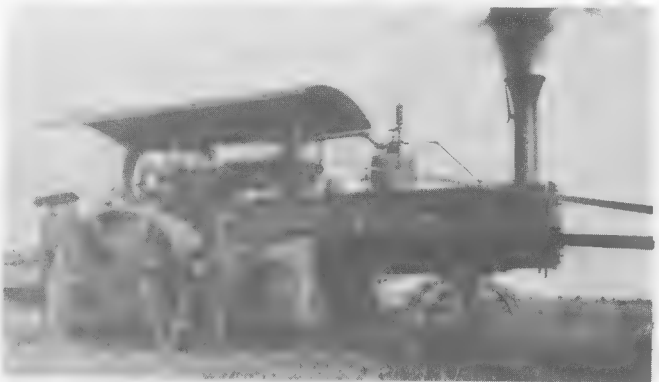
During the winter of 1913 the Pleasant Butte band was organized. The members were Andrew



The Student Minister looking over the threshing.

Johnson, Charlie Hundebly, Geo. Kerney, Joe Evenson, Howard Abraham, Jim Bailey Jr., Walter Stretch, Otto Gullick, Tom Melburne and Clarence Johnson. Vic and Cliff Johnson, George Evenson and Albert Sandvold joined later. This band played at practically all the picnics and sports days for miles around. The band leader was Geo. Simes. George had played at Queen Victoria's funeral, King Edwards Coronation and funeral and at the coronation of George V. This band played for many years and was always appreciated. There were changes through the years but some of the first members of the band were still in it at the last and were enjoyed as much then as in earlier years.

One Sunday there was a big crowd at the river. The band and a large crowd gathered on the ferry.

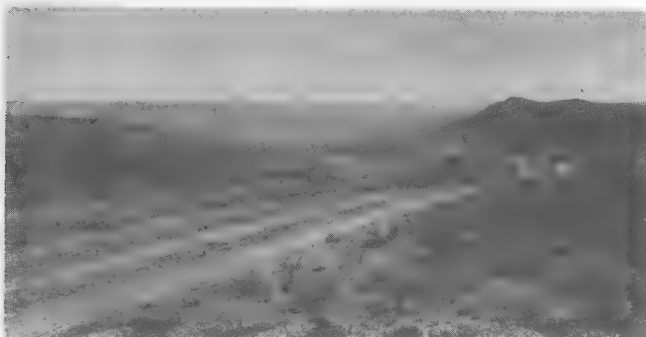


Steam engine threshing

Old John Evenson took them all for a ride. They rode to the south side then back. When nearing the north shore Iver Elvrum, a very happy man, picked up the rope to tie the ferry when it landed. Old John, in the meantime decided to give everyone another ride so the ferry started south again. Iver not expecting this danced right off the ferry into the river.

Luckily the water was only waist deep to Iver waded ashore — a very sober man.

During the latter part of July and August 1910 J. T. Johnson and sons Theo. and Jake put up about 115 tons of hay hoping to sell it during the winter. However there was no sale and so in order to use it up J. T. Bought a steam engine and separator. The hay was used as fuel in the steamer for breaking land. The steamer pulled a six bottom plow. This was the first steam engine to cross the Herbert ferry. Herman Heft brought it across on the ferry also ran



Coming up from the ferry.

it for breaking in 1911. Charlie Hundebly fired, Jake Johnson hauled hay, Clarence Johnson hauled water, Geo. Wallace was cook and J. T. was Jack of all Trades.

J. T. Johnson threshed around Sunkist in 1911. When threshing at Mr. Chell's place some one said "J. T. is threshing so fast he's putting a lot of oats in the straw pile". Mr. Chell answered "That's just what I want. What goes into the straw pile I don't have to pay for and I'm feeding the straw to the stock so I'm ahead by that". J. T. had a good laugh over this.

Elof Johnson in the fall of 1911 built a "stopping place" on the south side of the river and many a good meal was served to the public by the River Johnson's as they were called. Mrs. Johnson gave birth to triplets while there. She was also a very fine painter and many people tell of her beautiful pictures.

Mr. John Evenson was another pioneer who



Saskatchewan River Break-up.

played a very necessary part in pioneer days. He was the first ferryman at the Herbert Crossing and did this work off and on for 20 years with the help of several different men. On two occasions "Old

John" as he was called by his friends, was pulled out of the water. One of these times he fell off the top side of the ferry and as the current carried him under the apron the people on the lower side pulled him out. A lady who wanted to cross one day got quite a scare. Old John said "I'll take you as soon as I bury the "dead man". The lady didn't know at that time that a log with a cable around it buried in the ground was called the deadman. Mr. Evenson's job was a very important one, for his ferry was the link between Herbert and our municipality. Thousands of bushels of grain and other produce were taken from here and the necessary supplies brought back. Old John did his job well and just as conscientiously as Mr. Collins.

A Story of a Homesteader's Experiences

To help the younger generation understand the hardships and the joys of our pioneers we've chosen some events sent to us by Mr. George Bothner.

As the difficulties and the feelings of accomplishment seem to have been faced more or less by all the old timers, we hope both the young and old will find it as interesting as we did.

The Bothners came out in March 1913. While they were not among the first settlers it was still a very new country and the hardships of getting settled



Oxen — 1914 — H. Lambert.

were still great. They stayed with Isaac Dahlby until they got their own land. Isaac Dahlby was one of the few homesteaders who lived for awhile in a dugout which was dug out of a side hill. Mr. Bothner got his shack built and moved in. At night he tied his mules in duly arranged stalls on two sides of the shack. This attracted mosquitoes which were very bad anyway. It was not uncommon to have a "smudge Pot" on the table when eating. One evening they had more trouble than usual, as the smudge would not burn properly. After resorting to various schemes, with no success, they built a fire in a sheet-iron heater they had. Now it so happened that there were several pairs of shoes stored in it — storage space was limited and it seemed like a good idea to store the shoes in the stove. Some of the shoes were new too! This was too much for Mr. Bothner. He forthwith sat down and had a good cry. Believe it or not!

Mr. Bothner paid \$350 for three oxen with yokes, chain tugs and straps and 1/4" rope for lines. A team of mules with harness and back holds cost him \$500. That seems like quite an amount to pay out, especially when farming virgin prairie and the nearest town 50 miles away, with a river to cross. It



Mules — Russell Hunts.

took three days to make a round trip. These oxen and mules had to be hitched together and lots of difficulties arose until they became used to it.

1914 was called the "Dry Year" by the early settlers. It was a hard year but everyone was care-free and looking for better times to come. Most people had gotten "Relief" from the Government.

The old "Farmers Union" was also organized during this time and it was generally conceded that the people wouldn't have known what to do without it. The Rev. Sherrard was chosen president and his terse and pointed remarks will long be remembered. Mr. Bothner was Secretary Treasurer. Meetings were held once a month with programs of music and



1926 — 12 horse outfit.

various literary endeavours as well as debates and of course Sherrards "talk to the bunch" was usually worth going a long way to hear especially for us in those days. The Farmers Union came into existence in Dahlby's Store and Post Office and held the interest of the Community.

A celebration was held in July 1915 at Gilbert Treslan's place that was long remembered by all. There was wrestling, ball games, horse racing, speeches, a bank and a big refreshment booth. Ralph

Claypool and Anton Nohr were the mat performers. Four or five baseball teams played ball and the band played willingly and at all times. There was singing in the evening and dancing until the wee small hours. This day was long remembered by all with happiness despite a near tragedy.

Another old timer thinks this is the celebration that could have been heart breaking for many families. A tent had been set up for babies and small children so they could be out of the sun to sleep and rest. It was put to very good use and there were children all over the ground on blankets inside. The flies were very bad and some oxen which were tied to a wagon wheel finally broke loose after



Mixed Farming — Ole Storebo on plow.

fighting them all day. They made a bee-line for the tent going as hard as they could. A few men just happened to see them and by sprinting madly were able to head them off and catch them before any harm was done. Hearts were really standing still while all this was going on and every mother with a child in the tent breathed a prayer of thanks to God and to the men who acted for Him.

1915 and 1916 were very good years for crops. In those days they were cut with a binder and then



Threshing Crew with oxen, 1912.

stooked. The big thing after that was to get them threshed. There were less than a half dozen threshing machines in the whole district. Most of the men took jobs on the threshing outfits. The pay looked good \$8.00 for a day for a man and team. Besides the more that helped the sooner they'd get their

own threshed. Even so quite often it was way into December before everything was cleaned up. Everyone was happy — wheat was grading No. 1 hard and oats was weighing as high as 52 lb. to the bushel.

Wiseton was the town the grain was hauled to now from the Buffalo Basin and Coteau Plains district and all places in and around that district. It was a little closer than Herbert and of course there was no river to cross. The distance was from 30 to 40 miles. The method of transportation was by wagon drawn by horses or mules or oxen — the loads being from 50 to 60 bushels. It still took three days to make a round trip.

Schools were scarce but wherever there was one it served as a meeting place as well as school, church,



H. Broughton; Warren Roy; Clarence Murphy; Hulver Flaterud; Sitting — Alex Cameron and dog; Henry Flaterud and his Dad, Hans Flaterud.

parties and dances were all held there and if there wasn't a school close enough then any place that was big enough was used. Any excuse no matter how small was enough for people to get together and distance just didn't mean a thing.

1917 crops were not as good as 1915 and 1916 but on account of the war wheat was at a premium and prices reached as high as \$3.17 a bushel.

Early Days

As told by MRS. WM. RICHARDSON

The influx of settlers in the early 1900's had been tremendous in Central Saskatchewan; therefore the need for more land being opened up became urgent. This became possible by the Government putting in ferries at strategic points on the South Saskatchewan river.

The land now comprising the towns of Kyle, Whitebear, Tuberosa and surrounding districts having been taken up on the West and to the North the towns of Wiseton, Dinsmore and other districts having been homesteaded. There still remained the virgin prairie North of the river, which was now made accessible by ferry service.

Men from many parts and of various nationality applying to the Moose Jaw land office and to the

sub station at Swift Current were directed to the newly opened land. The Herbert Ferry commenced operation in 1910 and quite a few men homesteaded in the summer and fall of that year. Among them was J. T. Johnson who in the spring of 1911 began plying between Herbert on main line of C.P.R. to the new area North of the river, and for the sum



Mr. Geo. Esson 1911 — Car-roof Shack

of \$35.00 drove them by horse and democrat from Herbert, showing them the quarters of land still available. This made locating the farmstead much easier. Previous to this many had come in from Moose Jaw via Eyebrow. By 1912 almost all land had been taken. As farming developed Herbert was considered the market town for the area. Varying from 35 to 45 miles according to the location of the farmstead.

Having to cross the river was the biggest drawback farmers had, as grain had to be hauled south and coal, lumber and provisions to be hauled back north. Many of the settlers had only oxen and sometimes of necessity it took them four days time and \$6.00 to \$7.00 for stopping over accommodation. There were no good roads and very few landmarks. The women were very glad when the good man came home again. Being fearful of thunder storms in summer and blizzards in winter. With the respon-



Sod-House

sibility of children and stock this was very understandable.

It was quite hard to get established as no one seemed to be overburdened with money. The price of a team geldings was \$500.00, team of mares

\$600.00 and mules about the same. Milk cows ran \$60.00 to \$65.00 with calf at foot. Pullets \$1.00 each, roosters \$2.00 each, young pigs \$10.00 per pair. So many potential buyers were coming in, that the supply did not equal the demand. To get a start and then depend on nature's increase was the idea.

The women had to learn to order carefully and then eke out the supplies. Too bad if one ran out of staple groceries and 40 miles to a store. It was not so bad for meat, as there being no regulations at that



Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Lambert, 1914.

time a man was sometimes lucky to get a deer and there was a plentiful supply of rabbits available. After a few years the rabbits got a disease, causing cysts, so rabbit stews were discontinued.

But by this time most farmers were growing pigs for home use and the women making a good job of curing them into tasty bacon and hams. When company was invited usually the good man would chop off the heads of a couple of chickens which made a nice change of diet. Makeshifts and hard work had to be applied to everything one used. The firewood had to be taken from the river breaks, and a pile made ready against the coming of cold weather. There



Mr. John Redmond — First Home

was little money for coal. Then, too, fence posts to make pastures were an urgent need and had to be gotten from the same source as the firewood. This entailed many days of weary labor. Climbing up and down the steep breaks was hard and hazardous.

But the worst hazard of the settlers was the danger of prairie fires. Through the years the growth of grass, unless grazed by ranch cattle, matted down into what was called prairie wool. A match dropped in this in the heat of summer would have caused a conflagration. Therefore, after a settler had a roof over his head, the first thing he did was to plow a wide fireground around the shack, and another one at a greater distance which would eventually enclose the farm yard. In spite of all precautions there were several fires when the men worked hours turning furrows, or with stoneboats and barrels of water, wetting gunny sacks, and old overalls and batting out the flames. As the breaking of land began to increase year by year, this menace was finally eliminated.

As stock increased, the need for a good water supply was an urgent job. Many men had, at first, hauled water for miles, from the few springs in the district. This took up a lot of time needed for other



Mrs. John Redmond at her stove.

jobs. So, many wells were dug at centre or at the side of a slough, these were welcome, but only temporary, until such time as a permanent well could be located.

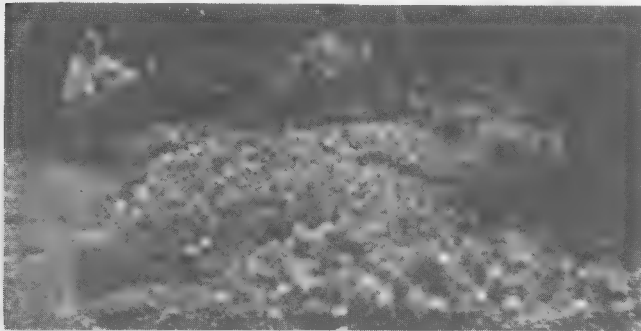
Houses were mostly rough built shacks of one or two rooms. There were even sod houses in which families lived. But the pioneer women made it do cheerfully. They knew as well as their husbands that barn or stable and chicken house had to be built too.

By the end of 1911 the district now being well settled the pioneers began thinking about organizing themselves to provide services which could not be found closer than Herbert. Therefore out of this need The Grain Growers Association was formed. Among the early promoters were: Geo. Urwin, A. D. Hunter, John Redmond and H. B. Fitzmaurice.

This was the only Farmer's Organization of the district for several years. Eventually this organization hauled coal, twine and kerosene and many other things for the use of its members. This was the first effort towards co-operation in the district. By 1913 the early pioneer women not to be outdone by their men and having a nice school newly built as a centre organized — The Lady Grain Growers. This was the first social club for women and did a lot of good work up to 1926 when

they affiliated with the Saskatchewan Homemakers and to the present time is known as Jonesville Homemakers Club.

Although the early settlers were of various nationalities and many had been born and raised in towns and cities and knew little or nothing of farming, it was not long before a feeling of neighbourliness and fellowship became apparent. As was inevitable as time passed on the better farmers began to emerge. Some because of their previous experience of farming in all its phases, others, probably because they had homesteaded on land with more productive soil, and some naturally had better business qualifications. But they all had one thing



What our land will do to-day!

in common, the primitive urge to possess more land they could call their own. To carve out for themselves a home in a new country and the founding of a new family of Canadians was their incentive and ambition.

By 1912 the farmsteads having been established the greatest need was to get acreage broken up for crops. Whether this was done by oxen or horses it was a slow process as outfits were small. The farmers mostly turned eight furrows in the morning and again eight in the afternoon.

The summer of 1911 was rainy, and had many thunder storms one of which caused the first death of a settler. Mr. McKivett was struck by lightning



whilst hauling hay in a buggy from the farm of Roy Bellows. This was on June 23rd, after only about six weeks out from Dakota. The body was taken to his native Nebraska for burial.

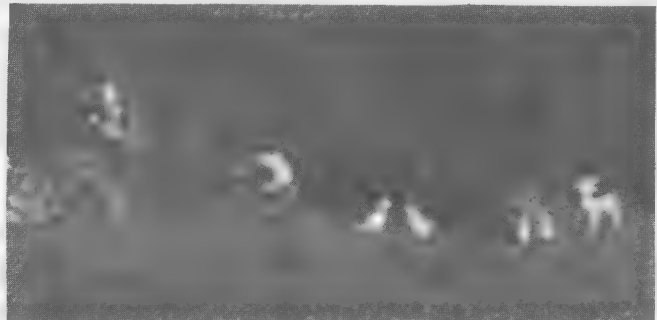
In 1912 the land already broken was cropped mostly to flax, the reason being this crop brought in more money, also the fact that flax seeded to take

out of the land some of its sourness. Both 1912 and 1913 crops were quite productive but owing to small acreage money was still scarce.

In 1914 was a great disappointment, the summer was very dry and ended in an almost crop failure. The Government had to come to the rescue. Coal, flour, feed for stock, seed grain for the 1915 crop, and a monthly allowance for groceries had to be provided. All this was a bad set-back for the settlers. An open winter followed. This was succeeded by good rains all through 1915 summer, thus producing a very good crop.

In 1916 summer there was so much rain that the settlers experienced a season of red rust the like of which we have not had since. Though we were now in the years of the first world war, 1917, 1918, and 1919, were poor crop years here so the Beechy farmers did not get the advantage of the higher prices for wheat which so many districts in Saskatchewan enjoyed. In 1919 the Municipality once again came to the rescue. Relief was the same as in 1914.

Meanwhile, during these years the womenfolk were doing their share. They were busy raising their broods of chickens, and making good on the family



garden plot. Growing a good assortment of vegetables meant much to the family budget. In the summertime, berry picking was a needful occupation. Whole families taking picnic baskets going to the river breaks to pick Saskatoon berries and later on chokecherries, neighbours vying with each other on how many jars of Saskatoons they could can, and how much chokecherry jam they could put up against the needs of winter.

To economize on the fuel there were many women and children in the districts who collected what was commonly called "Buffalo Chips". Going into the pasture to fill and drag home gunny sacks of the stuff. Whilst these made a hot oven and in summer the heat soon died down, it kept one busy stoking up and cleaning out the ashes. How very modern wives felt when the husbands began to bring home coal oil two burner stoves.

The biggest chore of the week, especially to the mother of considerable family was washday. The hard work of getting clothes clean with tub and washboard. The invention of the wash machine meant less work, so was something every woman tried to obtain. These, however, were not altogether a blessing. They were made with cypress wood held

together by iron bands, and worked by hand. When not in use they would often dry out and when wash-day came they would leak like a sieve.

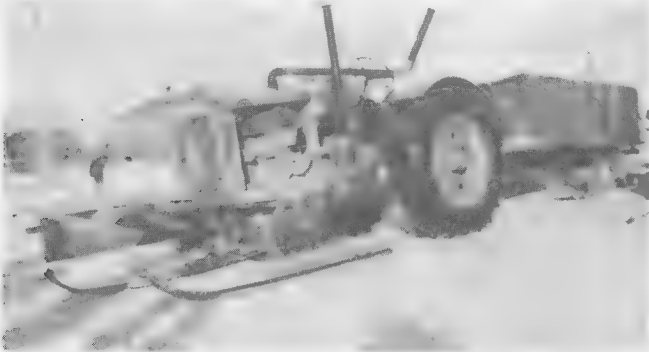
Most of the women came from European Countries or Northern United States where pioneer conditions were a thing of the past, so that milking cows, driving horses, churning, canning foods were new skills. Even baking bread was quite an undertaking. When that staple article of food proved a failure at a crucial time, such as when the threshers came, it was most embarrassing for the housewife.



Joy riding, 1920.

Almost every wife wanted to be known as the best cook in the country. Another thing wives took pride in was their use of the humble flour sack. The boys Sunday shirts were apt to be made of sacks dyed blue or brown, whilst the girl's dresses were dyed rose, green or yellow, these were made up with style and ingenuity. These you saw in all their glory at the Annual Grain Growers picnic which was a highlight of the year, where everyone tried to assemble.

The other highlight of the year was the Annual Christmas concerts. They required a lot of time and effort. It was realized it was too great a burden for the teacher and with such a few pupils so sometimes



General Delivery, 1941.

the parents added their bit. The resourcefulness, variety and talent of the men and women were a pleasant surprise. Well remembered by old timers were the comic monologues by the late Miss Agnes McKeever and comedy songs by the late Harry Garrett.

During the 1920's many dances were sponsored

by different Homemakers Clubs in their own district schoolhouses, the music being supplied by the talent of local men, who were good at playing the violin or guitar. The women and girls chording on the school organ. Often there were impromptu concerts during the lunch recess. The Collins sisters duets were very popular. Laughing sleigh loads would



Homemade toboggan — E. Stockman

arrive, often close neighbours doubling up and all of them undaunted by deep snow, cold or dark night.

Conditions were very bad during the 1930's owing to times of depression. The Stock Exchange crash of 1929 was felt not only on this continent but throughout the world. The crop of 1937 was exceptionally poor. There was no Government relief as in 1914 but the Federal Government shipped in to all drought areas supplies of dried fish, beans, cheese and apples. These maintained a better diet. Also car loads of vegetables, canning and a variety of things were donated by farmers in the east to be distributed to needy farmers in the drought stricken west.

Teachers were working for a salary of \$40.00 a



Sod-Barn

month or less in country schools. A girl doing housework earned \$5.00 to \$7.00 monthly. Boys in their late teens worked as hired men on farms for the princely sum of \$5.00 to \$7.00 a month. Their employers being granted \$5.00 per month by the Government towards their board. This applied from fall to spring to keep boys on the farms. Much unemployment was encountered and for youth seeking jobs there seemed no place to go. Wheat, eggs, butter and all farm produce was extremely low priced.

Then in 1939 war was declared and the young people of the country were soon joining up in the different war services. And all the products of the farm became in urgent need. By 1942 wheat was \$1.08 doe No. 1, No. 2 was \$1.05, Flax \$2.02, Barley 43½ cents.

The years have quickly passed and the prices of produce has greatly improved. But everything one buys has also gone up. Notwithstanding, the people have moved forward with the times. Many farm homes now have electricity, some from the Saskat-



Our early pioneers, 1954.

chewan Power Corporation and some privately owned plants, and there will be many more electrified homes in the near future. Thus the farm wife can have the advantages of modern appliances as well as can the urban wife. It seems a far cry from Buffalo Chips to propane and electric stoves, from coal oil lamps to electric lighting, from sad irons, wash board and tub to the modern electric wash machine and electric iron. From ice box to electric refrigerator and the deep freeze, from the old Quebec heater to central heat. Then there are the labor saving cake mixes and all the other packaged goods, the better quality and variety of canned goods. All these changes has lessened the work of the farm wife, and given more time for social life, reading, watching sports and travel. Then too, the farmer's work has been simplified. From the one furrow breaking plow, gang plow, disk and harrow — oxen



or horse drawn — and from the binder, stooking and threshing crew harvest — to Diesel engines and modern machinery, to self-propelled combines, is a far step indeed.

To those who have lived during the first half of the twentieth century there have been so many changes. It has been the era of the greatest expansion in the history of the human race. The discoveries of motorization, oils, electricity, splitting the atom. The

Page eighteen

great improvement of medical science, and the discovery of the wonder drugs. These things have extended the life expectancy of the people. The Social Services of Government must not be forgotten. The old Age Pension has brought comfort and security to many people in their twilight years. Family Allowances and Mother's Pensions have brought a better standard of living to many Canadian children. In spite of all these improvements the old settlers can still talk about "The Good Old Times".

Thoughts of 1911. — Here we are literally dumped on the raw prairie. What sort of life is it going to be? What sort of spirit is going to develop in this new community? The people themselves have to make that life! It is for them to form the character of the Community!

The Beechy of 1955 is the answer.

An Early Pioneer — Mr. John Collins

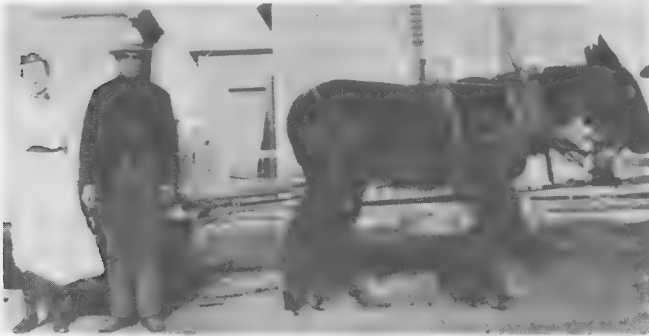
In 1911 the need of a post office closer than Herbert was felt. John Collins one of the earliest pioneers in the newly developing country north of the South Saskatchewan River realized this really needful service. He was one of the first to break



The first Mail Delivery from Herbert — Left Log Valley Delivery and right John Collins.

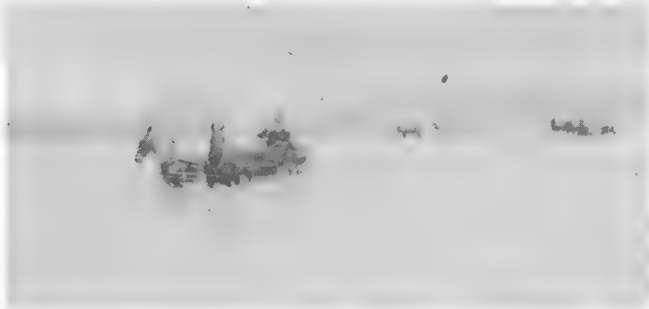
the sod on this fertile area, and eventually the first post office bearing his name was located in his house at the head of a ravine about 6 miles from where now stands the Village of Beechy. In those early days along with his other responsibilities he undertook to transport the mail from Herbert. This was a distance of about 40 miles. In the blizzards of winter and the blazing heat of summer he made the trip across the always unpredictable river by means of an always unpredictable ferry. Sometimes in rainy seasons the mud several inches deep, sometimes in winter the trail completely invisible under drifting snow with almost no landmarks to guide him or his team. All the early settlers faced these bad conditions and faced them bravely and with endurance, but they could choose their own time and day. But Mr. Collins went to Herbert and came back on his appointed days no matter what the conditions. And he never failed the other settlers or made any excuses. He knew how the new settlers looked forward to receiving their mail. It was the

bright spot in their isolated lives when they could hear from relatives and friends and Mr. Collins saw to it that they were not disappointed through any



Mr. and Mrs. John Collins

tardiness on his part. Although at the time he was a man of 60 he was truly inspired by a sense of duty, courage, and tenacity that younger men could have



Approaching the ferry with the Mail.

well emulated. On one occasion in July 1916 Mr. Collins wanted to cross the river when it was very high. Old John Evenson didn't want to take him but being Mr. Collins was the mail man he thought he'd try. With the help of several other men they started. The ferry got only a little way out in the swift current when it began to sink. Then the



On the Ferry

guiderope to the big cable broke and the ferry floated down the river about two miles and landed on the south side — not exactly at the place Mr. Collins had wanted to go but at least on the right side of the river.

Early Homesteaders' Days

As told by MRS. RALPH CLAYPOOL

This is the story of the early Homesteaders, their experiences, and social life of the Beechy West District.

In June 1910, Sam Claypool and Albert Phillips, came out from Swift Current, via the Saskatchewan Landing Ferry and filed on homesteads. Albert Phillips filed on land in Township 22, Range 12, west of 3rd Meridian and Sam Claypool in Township 22, Range 12, west of 3rd. There were no homestead shacks west of Paul Korts (at present the land is owned by Hugh Hunter.)



Warren Roy Summerfallowing, 1915.

Mr. Phillips came out in October, 1910 and built a shack and barn on his purchased homestead along the Matador fence.

The Claypool brothers came out from Herbert crossed the Saskatchewan River on Herbert Ferry on November 1, 1910, they brought lumber and material for their shack, a stove and household goods, groceries, etc. Scotty McLaughlin, who at that time had a livery barn in Herbert, sent his hired man Jock Heron, with a team of horses and wagon to convey them to their homestead. They reached the



R. Claypool

Saskatchewan River and got stuck on the sand bar and had to unload and carry the load from the sand bar to the ferry, get the wagon and team on the ferry and reload the wagon again with the help of John Evenson and his young son Joe. The late John

Evenson was ferry-man at that time. They were given a most hospitable reception at this humble home. His heroic work as ferry man and the help he gave the early homesteaders will never be forgotten.

The Claypool's and Jock Heron, refreshed after a nights rest at Evenson's started up the old Wosenberg Trail. It was just an old trail through the brakes. They got lost when they got to the top of the brakes, they went west instead of going north-west. Fortunately they met Albert Phillips, who had been down to the river for wood. He took them up to his place and they stayed overnight.

The next day they went to their homesteads and started to build their shacks. While the Claypool's were building their shack, Ed Diggernes brought lumber from Herbert and built his shack, and in a few days Roy Bellows came and built his shack too. He had come out during the summer and made a dugout barn. He and his family lived here the winter of 1910. Mrs. Roy Bellows was the lone pioneer woman of the district. She never saw an-



Sam Welch breaking, 1918.

other woman until Mrs. Charlie Covey came in the spring of 1911. Elma Covey (Mrs. George Schury) was the first child born in the district.

The winter of 1911, Ralph and Sam Claypool lived together on the homestead. The previous summer more homesteaders came in, Mr. and Mrs. McKivet, the Evjens, Hungerfords, Dahlby's, Treslans and many more.

The winter of 1910 the homesteaders got their mail at Lucky Lake, the only means of travel was by foot, so when one person went he took the mail for everyone in the district. The settlers visited around among themselves and played cards. One little woman, Mrs. Oram who on leaving her home in Ontario forseen the loneliness of the prairies, persuaded her husband to let her take her organ along out west. She was a good organist and added greatly to the social life of the community as they gathered at house parties for variety concerts, debates and dances which made enjoyable the long winter evenings. Making one forget the howling of the blizzards, the lonesome whine of the coyotes and the bleakness of the prairie country in winter.

Mr. Peter Dahlby (Isaac Dahlby's father) had the first store which was started in the year 1914. It later became the meeting place for social activities.

Page twenty

The Grain Growers' was organized there. Rev. Sherrard was their first president and Geo. Bothner the secretary. The Grain Growers Organization was instrumental in getting much needed assistances of the settlers, such as roads, schools and a railroad. They worked for twelve years to get the railroad in to Beechy.

A memorable achievement socially was their first picnic at Gilbert Trenslan's, a Bowery dance was held with willing workers getting trees and branches

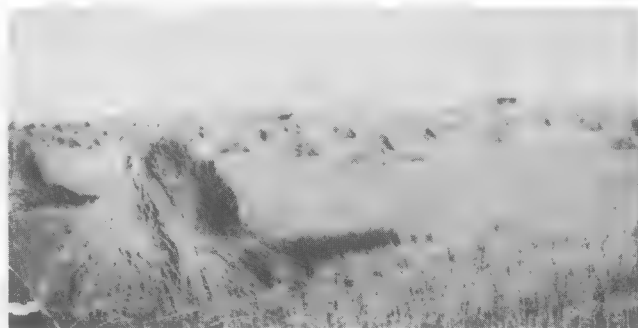


Threshing!

from the Saskatchewan River as there were no trees around at that time. Alex Cameron and Oscar Johnson supplied good music for the occasion. At the first stroke of the bow, the floor filled with dancers, as ladies were few and the batchelors plentiful. Refreshments and eats were provided even hay for the horses as there were no cars at that time.

The early settlers broke the land with oxen. They were much cheaper than horses and more economical and when useless as a work animal they could be eaten for meat. Three oxen were known to have died one day during a bad dust storm in the settlement.

Ralph Claypool hauled his first load of flax to Herbert with oxen. He made the trip in one day from his home to Herbert. He stayed one day in Herbert and couldn't sell his load of flax. It took



42 bushel crop in stooks.

him two days to come home as the oxen were sore footed and could not travel fast.

Mrs. Charlie Chovan now living at Hillsdale, Wisc. looked after the physical needs of the early settlers. She was a most capable person in caring for the sick as well as helping out where she was needed. She was a real asset to the community. She

did marvelous work during the Flu of 1918-1919. It was a by word of the early settlers when anything drastic happened, "Get Mrs. Chovan".

Oldtimers may recall many dances, notably the Roof Garden Dance on Sherrards roofless barn, baby sitters weren't any problem then as Cleve French enjoyed caring for the babies.

There was a dance in Dave Scott's barn, the



Combining with horses, 1930.

mothers were told to leave the babies in the house because the dance floor might go down. Everyone had a good time regardless of the danger.

A picnic was organized for a Sunday at Minnie Lake. Francis Robberstad was drowned in their dam on the Saturday and instead of the picnic all attended her funeral on the Sunday.

Early Lance Valley News

As told by BYRON CLARK

Lance Valley district was first homesteaded about 1910. About 1915 it was broken up into two school districts known as Buffalo Basin and Coteau Plains. The lumber to build the first homes was hauled from Elbow about 60 miles. Later on grain



Homemade horse drawn cutters — Byron Clark.

and supplies were hauled from Wiseton. Some of the most interesting early settlers were:

Mrs. R. P. Brookes one of the early pioneers of the Lance Valley district was a graduate nurse from

North Dakota. Mrs. Brookes in the early years acted as both Doctor and nurse for miles around. During the busy flu epidemic of 1919 she often was away from her home for weeks on end. She brought many of the children of the Buffalo Basin and Coteau Plains district into the world. On leaving the farm she was employed by the Government as a nurse



Snowfall 1948 — 6 ft. in driveway.

among the Indians of the Meota district. She carried on this work until her health gave out and is now living in Saskatoon in the winter and Meota in the summer.

Mr. Tobin took up his homestead in 1912 after coming from British Columbia. In about 1916 Mr. Tobin opened up the Lance Valley post office. The mail was brought from Elbow to Rossduff, which is about 16 miles north-east of Lance Valley, and from there to Lance Valley. Mr. Tobin handled the mail until the town of Beechy was formed. Mr. Tobin being a very good blacksmith built a shop as soon as he was settled and built up a very good business. Many farmers came with oxen, horses or



Clark's Orchestra, 1928.

on foot to get their plow shears sharpened. The people of the district were very grateful for this service. Mr. Tobin was the first secretary of Coteau Plains school. He held this position for two years.

Mr. John Dezell and his family moved to Coteau Plains from Ontario in 1912. Mr. Dezell had studied the ministry prior to coming west and often was

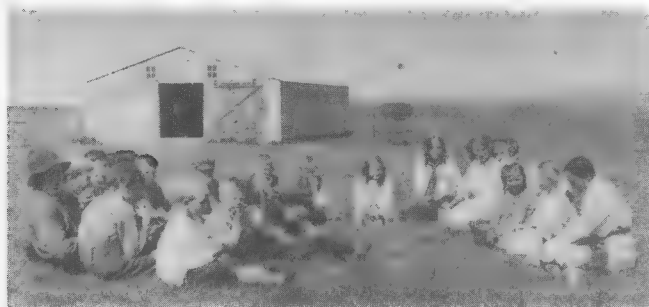
called upon for funerals. They left the district in the early 20's returning to Ontario.

Mr. Ernest Hagemiester another well known pioneer was always in great demand as a vetrinarian and sometimes travelled miles looking after sick animals. Also good at mending broken down machinery. Mr. Hagemiester used to be the Dentist around to settlers who had tooth-aches. In 1952 Mr. and Mrs. Hagemiester celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

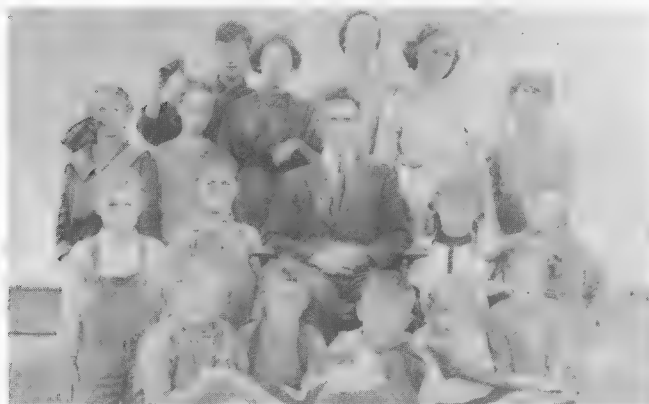
SCHOOLS

It was early realized that schools would soon be urgently needed. Many families upon arrival had already several children of school age so school districts were organized, school boards elected, and the years 1911 to 1925 the following schools were built:

Vendale	S.D.	No. 266	July 8, 1911
Rob Roy	S.D.	No. 349	Aug. 8, 1911
Pleasant Butte		No. 592	Feb. 8, 1912
Demaine	S.D.	No. 2865	Jan. 10, 1913
Jonesville	S.D.	No. 2852	Dec. 13, 1912
Buffalo Basin		No. 2937	Apr. 10, 1913
Coteau Plains		No. 3224	Feb. 12, 1914
Collins	S.D.	No. 3225	Mar. 12, 1914
Minnie Lake	S.D.	No. 3340	May 21, 1914
Neasden	S.D.	No. 3413	July 17, 1914
Hill and Hollow		No. 3912	June 6, 1917
Howendale	S.D.	No. 3995	Feb. 4, 1918
Beechy	S.D.	No. 4449	Aug. 18, 1921
Valient	S.D.	No. 4638	Nov. 5, 1925



Jonesville School 1916.



Collin's School — Mr. K. Rappale first teacher, 1914.

Co-operative News

As told by GEO. URWIN

President Sask. and Man. Federated Co-operatives

Characteristic of the early settlers in the territory, which was ten years later to become the R.M. of Victory, was their cosmopolitan make-up, and their ability to work together for mutual self-help.

The area had been devoted to ranching and was within the Palliser triangle. For this reason settlers were allowed to file on 160 acres as a homestead, and on an additional 160 acres as a preemption at \$3.00 per acre, it being recognized that 160 acres was too small a holding in an area of below average rainfall.

Practically all available land was filed on in 1909, 1910 and 1911 and by 1912 at least 30 acres on each half section had been broken up and sown to cereal grains. The first settlers travelled from 60 to 70 miles from a railroad. Albert Phillips (who later became Secretary of the Municipality) and myself brought our effects from Swift Current, a distance of 72 miles.

Any history of the etarly days would be incomplete without reference to the fortitude of the women who were part of the settlement. The majority of them came from old established settlements in other provinces or countries, and from a life so different from a pioneer settlement that it is to their everlasting credit they adapted themselves to the new conditions and made life bearable for their men-folk. Some of them in the first few years went out of the settlement every spring when their husbands left the homestead for the summer to earn a stake to carry them over the following winter. The few who stayed for the summer lived miles away from other women and they had to be the "salt of the earth" to put up with such surroundings. The men-folk, who could chat with neighbours at the end of the furrow or on their trips to town, had little conception of the problems endured by their wives, and it is difficult to adequately express the contribution made by our wives in these early days. In the summer of 1912, for instance, when Mrs. Urwin came to the settlement, there was not another woman in residence in the whole of Township 22. The closest woman then was Mrs. Russell Clark, 5 miles to the south-east, and Mrs. Hans Flaterud about the same distance north-west.

Progress in the first ten years of the settlement was rather slow because of the distance to rail, and in this period a number of towns became marketing centres as railways were built nearer the settlement. A ferry north of the town of Herbert shortened the distance for those who came in from Swift Current and Elbow, to 45 miles, and in 1914 steel came in to Wiseton and Dinsmore and enabled us to reach a marketing centre in 30 to 35 miles without having to cross the Saskatchewan river. It was practically 10 years before the steel finally was laid into Beechy. These facts are recounted as an explanation of the somewhat slow progress of the early settlement. Three day trips to town with the necessary expenses

thereby entailed, did not encourage the breaking up of large acreages, and it was not until the steel approached Lucky Lake that breaking on a big scale was attempted.

The handicap of being so far from town, however, did not prevent progress along educational lines. By 1915 schools had been erected in most areas of what later became the boundaries of the municipality, and in 1918 a telephone company was organized. Dispute as to whether Demaine or Beechy would have the central, resulted in the organization being disbanded, and it was my task to act as liquidator.

Conditions prevailing in the early days of the settlement were such as to give encouragement to co-operative efforts in many fields. Neighbours assisted one another in building houses and barns, digging wells, harvesting, stacking sheaves and threshing, and meetings of locals of the Grain Growers Association to some extent satisfied the need for social contacts of the settlers.

The construction of Neasden School in 1915 was typical of the willingness of the pioneers to work together in their mutual interest. The name was chosen because we already had a post office of that name within the boundaries of the school district.

Prior to 1912 the nearest post office was Demaine, 18 miles east, then the Collins P.O. was opened and brought us a few miles closer. In 1913, however, we were prevailed upon to operate a post office on our homestead, and when asked by the post office officials to give the new post office a name, we chose the name of the village in which my parents were still residing in Middlesex County, England. As Secretary of the Neasden S.D., I organized the building of the schoolhouse in the following manner; a carload of lumber was ordered in Vancouver for shipment to Wiseton, 37 miles north, the nearest point on railway. There being no money to pay school taxes, settlers who had horses hauled out the carload of lumber, and were credited with the first year's taxes. Others agreed to work on the erection of the building, and were also given credit on their tax liability in proportion to the time spent. Every person in the district worked in some capacity or other, and thus by co-operative effort a school house was built, and it still stands today after 40 years' use. Families of all original settlers received their primary education there, and it was used for church services, and social events, until there were more commodious premises erected in the town of Beechy.

Another characteristic of the pioneers of the district was the rapidity in which they came to the assistance of neighbours in distress. In sickness it was often necessary to drive 35 or 40 miles to get the nearest doctor, but tasks such as this were cheerfully undertaken with no thought of monetary reward. It is not surprising, therefore, that very soon after the steel came to Beechy, steps were taken to hire a Municipal doctor, and the contract entered into with the first practitioner was copied

by many Municipalities which later adopted the same method of providing medical services.

The need for obtaining goods in the most economical way led us into our first co-operative trading through the trading department of the Grain Growers Association. Coal, twine, fence posts and the like, were purchased in carload lots, and many of us travelled by horse and buggy as much as ten miles to meetings at which orders were taken for such things as gopher poison. Savings were not large, but undoubtedly they did help to stretch our meagre incomes.

By 1923 the R.M. of Victory was producing substantial wheat and other crops, and the campaign for a Wheat Pool was supported by the majority of farmers in the District. The first delegate to the Wheat Pool was Albert Phillips, in 1924, and I was elected to succeed him in 1925. At that time I was also Reeve of the R.M. of Victory. The operation of the Wheat Pool in its first five years of pooling was very successful. The initial payment in the fall, followed by an interim payment in the spring, and a final payment just before harvest, gave us finances at very appropriate times, and it appeared our economic problems were solved.

The crash of 1929 and the large overpayment by the Pool, however, ended this happy position, and we began to realize that we would have to give more attention to the cost of some of the things we had to buy. Consequently, we organized the Beechy Co-operative Association for the procurement of consumer goods. Coal, wood, twine, fence posts and petroleum products were the main things handled during the time I was President, and a good deal of credit must be given to the manager, Harry Fitzmaurice, for his devotion and service to the organization. But for his unselfish efforts in those early days, the young Co-op would have died aborning.

Beechy Co-operative Association applied for membership in the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and for many years I attended the annual meetings as a delegate from Beechy. In 1940 I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Wholesale, and in 1942 was elected Vice-President. In March 1944 the Presidency suddenly became vacant, and I was elected to the position, which meant an immediate removal to Saskatoon. As you are aware, I have been re-elected to the Presidency every year since, and have had the privilege of taking a prominent part in the rapid expansion of the business.

At the end of my first year as President, ten years ago, our total sales volume was \$4,000,000. For the year ending October 31, 1953, the sales volume had increased to \$30,000,000. What greater satisfaction could come to any homesteader than to be privileged to head an organization destined to become a real factor in the economic life of the Province?



Municipal News—Victory No. 226

By ALBERT PHILLIPS
Sec.-Treas. from 1925-1945

The Rural Municipality of Victory No. 226 contains roughly four hundred square miles or slightly over eleven townships of land.

This municipality was one of the last districts in Central Saskatchewan to be settled up.

There were two main reasons why this was so, first, its situation, which was on the South and East slopes of the Coteau Hills and that together with



Seeding, 1954.

its lying on the North side of the South Saskatchewan River made it very hard to get into as up until 1907 there were no ferries between the Saskatchewan landing and the Elbow a distance of some sixty miles and second in 1905 the Matador Land and Cattle Co. of Trinidad, Colorado and the late Robert Cruickshank of Moose Jaw, were granted grazing leases on approximately eight townships East of Saskatchewan Landing, of which three were within the boundaries of what was later to become the Rural Municipality of Victory No. 226.

This land held for grazing together with the Coteau Hills turned the tide of settlers who were



Moving an outfit.

spreading North from the Main line of the Canadian Pacific and crossing the river at the Saskatchewan Landing, North and West towards where Kyle, White Bear, Eston and Rosetown now stand.

When the Canadian Pacific built North Westward from Moose Jaw to Outlook a ferry was put in at Elbow, but again the nature of the river breaks and the sand hills turned the settlers North and West. So that it was not until 1908 that Homesteaders began to filter into what is now the R.M. of Victory No. 226.

Page twenty-four

By 1910 ferries had been put into operation at Billings and Belleheumer Crossings, West of Riverhurst at Log Valley Crossing, North of Morse at Herbert Crossing, North of Herbert at Rush Lake.

In the meantime the district was filling up with settlers. They came from every province of the Dominion, from North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Montana, Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois and Washington, Oregon and Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas and from Vermont and Pennsylvania. They came from England, Scotland and the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland and Finland, from Germany, Poland, Russia, Rumania, Yugoslavia, Austria, Hungary and Switzerland. They and their



Breaking, 1954.

descendants are now typical Canadians living in peace and harmony a fine example for the League of Nations.

Many were the difficulties and the hardships that had to be met and overcome.

They were from thirty-five to fifty miles from a railroad, water was hard to find, some had horses or oxen, while still others had to work out six months of the year and live on their homesteads the other six. Drought, gophers, grasshoppers and hail all took



Baling Hay, 1954.

toll of their crops. The first real crop came in 1915. 1916 was also a good year, although stem rust caused a serious loss of grades. 1917, 1918, 1919 all were dry years, especially 1919 when practically no rain fell during the growing season.

As the settlers moved in the Dominion Government followed up with Post Offices. There was Demaine on the farm of the late E. J. Demaine,

Helmville P.O. on the farm of the late Edward Dodman, ArdKenneth on the late Kenneth Macdonald farm, Collins on the farm of the late J. R. Collins, Neasden on the farm of Geo. Urwin, Sherrard on the farm of the late J. A. Sherrard, Lans Valley on the Jim Tobin farm, Dahlby on the Dahlby farm where a country store was also operated and Jonesville at the D. Santy store on the A. B. Jones farm. This office was later moved to Beechy after that village was formed and the

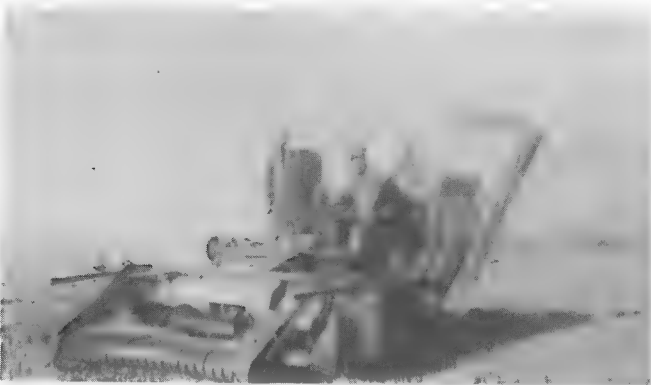


Swathing Grain.

name changed to Beechy. These Post Offices were a great boon to the homesteaders, the arrival of the mail being an important event in the lives of the people.

Schools also were being built where needed. De-maine, Rob Roy, Pleasant Butte, Jonesville, Neasden, Coteau Plains, Collins, East Butte, Valiant, Beechy and Howendale all did their part toward the education of the children who often had to go several miles in order to get to school.

These schools soon became the gathering places where Church services were conducted. Community concerts and dances which previously had been held at private homes were now put on in the school buildings and many famous old time fiddlers such



Self-Propelled Combine.

as Albert Sandvold, Andrew Johnson, The Lans boys, Gunnar and Gus, John Lampman and Alex Cameron with Milford Taylor and Wm. Lowe to call off the square dances added to the enjoyment of the settlers.

Up until the end of 1919 roads for the most part

followed the path of least resistance winding here and there to find the smoothest way between farms. Often having an old buffalo or cow track for one wheel to follow. They crossed fields of grain and meandered around sloughs or wet places. A demand was being made to keep roads on the proper road allowances. This together with the crop failure of 1919 which left farmers without seed or feed and without cash or credit caused the Department of Municipal Affairs to request the late J. M. McCurdy who afterwards became Secretary-Treasurer of the R.M. of Morse and the town of Morse, to endeavour to organize the district into a Municipality. If this was done the Saskatchewan Government would by guaranteeing the Banks against loss, enable the new Municipality to borrow sufficient money to allow the Council to give direct relief to those in need and to purchase seed and feed for ratepayers who could not finance their 1920 seeding operations in any other way. Mr. McCurdy called a meeting of the people in the district early in 1920. This meeting was held in the Jonesville School and resulted in the approval of organization plans.

The first Reeve was Mr. H. B. Fitzmaurice with David Williams, Wm. A. Taylor, R. Claypool, Axel Lans and Charles Hundebay as the first council. J. R.



Run Drill and Tractor.

Paisley was appointed Secretary-Treasurer and Wm. Inkster of Lucky Lake as Auditor. An office was opened in the J. R. Paisley farm home and later moved into Beechy after that Village was established.

Bank loans were negotiated and seed and feed purchased and distributed in time for Spring seeding. Smaller loans had to be made in 1921 and 1922 until by the end of 1923 the Municipality was indebted to the banks for over Sixty-Thousand dollars (\$60,000.).

The population by the end of 1923 had increased to about 1700 people and the question of Medical Services for them was one that demanded attention. Up until 1924 with the exception of a few months when a Doctor from Herbert came out to the district for a few days each month there was no Medical Practitioner in the Municipality. Most of the care of the sick had been done by Mrs. C. Chovan and Mrs. R. P. Brooks. These two ladies had always answered the call for help and there is a warm spot in many a Mother's heart for them and many a child was helped into this world by their aid.

By 1924 the population had grown so greatly the question of Medical Services was one of in-

creasing importance so a by-law to enable the Municipality to hire a Medical Practitioner was put before the ratepayers and when voted on was carried by a large majority. Dr. Wallace Bond who later became associated with Dr. Alexander of Saskatoon was engaged to fill the position. This scheme was continued with only short intermissions until 1946 — when present system of paying the Doctor a grant



Tractor pulled Combine!

was inaugurated. Victory No. 226 was one of the first Municipalities in the Province to hire a full time physician and many requests for information as to how the scheme was working were received from points in Canada and the United States and most of the early contracts between Municipalities and Doctors were based on this contract.

The railroad reached Lucky Lake in the fall of 1920 and the grade had been completed near Demaine. The construction department of the C.N.R. thought that there was little chance of it getting any further at this time as they could not get a contractor to bring in men to finish it so they gave permission to Rome Rice and Nels Larson of Demaine to organize the farmers into a construction gang and grade the road in Demaine. The grading was finished early in 1921 and steel reached there shortly afterwards. Then during the summer of 1921 the road was completed to Beechy, its present terminus. The railway reached Beechy December, 1921.

From 1923 to 1929 crops were better and prices on the whole good and the Municipality by careful management had repaid all loans. Then prices began to drop, wheat was selling for 19 cents a bushel at local elevators and good beef cattle for 1 cent a pound. At the same time drought, grasshoppers and high winds ravished the land and hardships and poverty were rife amongst the people.

Again the Government and the Municipality had to advance each year from 1931 to 1939 large sums for seed, feed and relief. Tax collections were almost at a standstill. The banks refused to advance any more money than would be required to just run the office so in order to keep the schools going the council decided to try and float loans from a few individual ratepayers who could afford to make such advances, Mrs. Ella Barton, Mrs. A. Baxter, Tom Prendergast, W. J. Swan and Mrs. A. F. Moore, each advanced some money. This enabled the

municipality to keep going until the arrival of better crops in 1938. During this period many families moved away hoping to make a new start in more favored districts so that by the end of 1938 the population had decreased to a little less than one thousand people.

Methods of farming were changing, tractors were taking the place of horses and farms that were left by those leaving the district soon bought up or rented by those who remained and as good crops and prices returned the cultivated acreage increased until now there is very little arable land left in the Municipality.

Under the Tax Adjustment Act of 1937 all arrears of Taxes with the exception of two years were cancelled. Those who had their taxes paid up were given tax credits during the next four years equalling one year's taxes.

Along about 1939 wheat became a glut on the market and the Dominion Government put in operation a wheat acreage reduction plan, paying the farmer a certain amount per acre on any land summerfallowed over the ordinary practice of one third summerfallow and for each acre seeded to grass or fall rye. All applications were made at the municipal office and this scheme was continued until 1942 when owing to changing world conditions there was a ready sale for all the wheat that could be grown.



Snow Plow, 1948.

The Dominion and the Provincial Government cancelled all seed and feed and relief advances with the exception of 50% of the 1938 seed and this together with the cancellation of taxes previously referred to and payments in poor years under the P.F.A.A. known as Dried Out Bonus gave the farmers a chance to get pretty well out of debt. They took pride in paying their taxes and by the end of 1945 the total arrears owing on Municipal School and Telephone Taxes was only \$4,622.00. This was reflected in the finances of the Municipality which closed the year 1945 with all loans paid off and with about \$74,000 in Dominion Government Bonds, Bank Balance and cash.

From 1945 up until the present time crops and prices have been very good and the Municipality has made steady progress in getting better road machinery and improving the many miles of roads within its boundaries.

Tax collections have continued high and excellent administration has enabled the Municipality to continue to serve its ratepayers well.

From its organization the Municipality has been served by many able and unselfish Reeves and Councillors. Men like H. B. Fitzmaurice, W. J. Swan, A. Loyst, Geo. Urwin, C. J. McElhone, B. Vikanes, Geo. Schury, Eric Tuplin, and H. Hunter, acting as Reeves and many of the best men in the various divisions as Councillors have all added their part to the efficiency and prosperity of the Rural Municipality of Victory No. 226.

Small Town Men

It takes big men to deal with little towns
And not themselves grow smaller year by year:
To stand the endless flick of envious tongues,
Nor mind too much. To see the reason clear —
The aching need for power or for love:
The bitter emptiness of those who fear
The slipping decades; and, slow week by week,
The gentle, awful patience of the meek
Who know they bear within them some great lack
Of vigor to attack or yet hit back.

Yet one who knows his town will find
Its people not more cruel than they're kind.
He'll see the shining goodness — all the care
They give the sick or needy neighbour there,
He'll see the washerwoman's youngest son
Out playing with the bankers. They are one,
Small town folks, that if folks be clean
And pay their bills, they'll wait till it be seen
Which has the better boy.

But he who does not truly know will see
Only the smallness and the snobbery,
And slowly with the years he will become
The thing he sees — its essence and its sum.

—VIRGINIA SCOTT MINER.

The Village of Beechy

The Canadian National Railway gave Beechy its name after a Northern Explorer, Lieutenant Beechy of the British Navy, who had done outstanding expeditionary work in the Arctic and North-West Passage, thus giving the townsite an honored name.

This village with a population of 325 people, with a dog or cat to each household is very much like hundreds of other Prairie Villages in this our Jubilee year for Saskatchewan. We have our busy stores, garages, and all the essential business places that are so necessary in this year 1955. Today we press buttons for power and heat, giving time for the many recreations.

It wasn't always so — Back in the year 1919 Beechy was part of the farm of Mr. Neil Oliver Sr. The district was fast becoming settled and the need

of a railroad was realized, so engineer Knowlton and a party of surveyors in 1919 measured and staked a line for the Canadian National Railways to follow the plains of the Missouri Coteau range of hills starting at Dunblane. This was accepted as advance information that the building of a railroad would soon follow and in the Spring of 1920 work commenced.

So it was in the Spring of 1920 Mr. William Surgeson came. His was a hardware store and Mr. Rude Stockman Sr. who farmed some six miles to



Mr. & Mrs. John Lampman — Place of business.

the north erected a small building and would drive in each day in a team and buggy to carry on blacksmith work. Until July of that first summer these two men were Beechy's first population. It was the first of July, year 1920 when William Surgeson in a Ford Model T car that had been made into a truck brought his wife and two children to the unsurveyed townsite of Beechy. Their first home was a one room building previously used as a granary and when Mrs. Surgeson took one look inside she backed out quickly, for what she thought to be bugs were clusters of flaxseed hanging all over the walls and ceilings. Though a bit downhearted but with the pioneering spirit she made a home of it.

From then on Beechy began to grow. Lumber had to be hauled many miles so the Western Canada Sawmills started a lumber yard with Tom Boyes as manager. With the knowledge of the early coming



Ed. Boyes' first Machine Agency.

of the Railroad he had a quantity of lumber hauled from Dinsmore (some 40 miles) by horse, team and wagon and was open for business.

The first year and a half of Beechy's history everything was hauled by truck or team from other points, but by the spring of 1922 the first train puffed into the station and transportation became

easier. The train from Saskatoon to Beechy (Beechy being the end of the steel) started as a mixed train, that is freight and passenger, and has never changed making the journey a long and tedious one, consequently a fight has been made to improve the highways and in this Jubilee year there is an all weather gravelled highway to the main distributing centers.

About Midsummer of 1920 four blocks of a townsite were surveyed and Mr. Surgeson purchased for a hardware Lot. No. 1 in Block No. 1 on the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. Mr.



Yip Brothers hosts to the citizens of Beechy Xmas Day, 1923.

E. A. Irwin chose the other corner for a general store. Between these two stores were the Yip Brothers Hotel, Dave Santy's General Store, Lem Moore's butcher shop, Jim Harrington's pool room and Stan Commode in another hardware. A little later Sam, a chinese, started a restaurant. As the town grew a lumber yard was started by DeWolfe and two livery stables came into existence by Cooper Brothers and George Payne. Another restaurant was started by Mr. and Mrs. Rasmus Hoigland and later taken over by Mr. and Mrs. John Lampman.

Automobiles started coming into the district in greater numbers and Ed Boyes built a garage. He also had a farm implement agency. Wm. Taylor



First Stampede, 1922, Beechy.

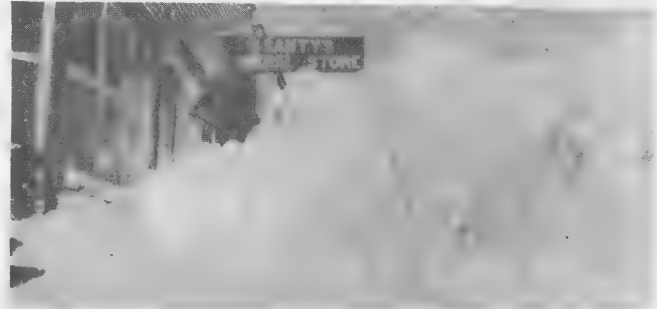
a local homesteader also introduced another company line of farm machinery.

The nearest Post Office to the townsite was three miles south known as Jonesville but when Dave Santy moved his store into Beechy the Post Office was also moved. The first mails coming into Beechy were brought from Herbert across the South Saskatchewan River by Bill Thomas, but when the C.N.R. arrived it took over the contract. The first Postmaster was Marvin McKean. In 1923 Post-

Page twenty-eight

master McKean retired due to ill health and Lee Pettigrew took over and continued until retirement in 1951. Joining Mr. Pettigrew as Assistant in 1928 Aileen Godson continues on as Postmistress.

Before grain elevators were built W. B. Bell and Carl Nerby came from Riverhurst and built



Snow-storm.

bins to accept grain. The Saskatchewan Co-op Elevator Co. Ltd. built the first elevator in 1922 with Frank Helm as buyer, then the State operated his own elevator. These three elevators handled the grain for a number of years, but the production of grains increased and two more elevators were built. Before annexes were added to the elevators Mr. Nerby built a huge open bin to accommodate the ever increasing production and so huge was the pile of wheat that it spread over the railroad tracks



Farewell party for Mrs. MacNillan.

halting all rail traffic. The only grain loaders known then were permanent fixtures in grain elevators so men with shovels and strong backs set out and cleared the right of way.

The first school age children of Beechy had to go to Jonesville School three miles south but in 1922 a small one roomed school was built north and west just outside of the townsite. This soon became inadequate and was moved to the present site with another room added. Like the majority of homes, as the need arose more rooms were added. Today we have a four roomed school and an overflow classroom holding forth in the basement of a church.

Plans are under way for an eight room school to be erected this year.

Several times the Hamlet sought to organize into a village but a fluctuating population failed to provide in the townsite the required 100 permanent residents, but by the Spring of 1925 after the birth of twins to Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Cooper and noses were counted definite plans could be laid to organize a village. A meeting of the Burgers was held on the evening of Election Day June 5th, 1925 and in the presence of all assembled the new Council convened.

The recorded minutes of that first council meeting reads:

"Meeting No. 1 Beechy Hall 7 p.m. June 5th, 1925. All members present — George Payne, Carl Nerby, Helen Agnes Dodman. Unanimously decided to hold a meeting of council on Thursday June 9th at 8 p.m. at a place to be decided later. Moved by George Payne — That Mrs. R. L. Pettigrew be appointed to act as Secretary at next Council meeting, Carried. Moved by Mrs. Dodman — That this meeting adjourn."

Many Councils have sat in session since then, each tending to the administrations of a village that has had considerable expansion and that has been required to change tempo with changing times.

With the organizing into a Village the Council



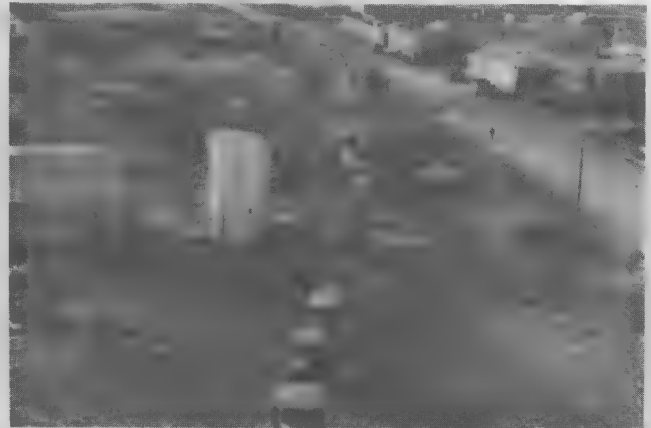
Beechy in early days.

could pass and carry out their own bylaws thus it was that a dog tax was levied, streets were improved, sidewalks on the main street were built.

It was about 1926 that electricity came to the village. Sam Sunter started up a garage and installed a light plant. At first service was given from sun-down to sun-up with Monday mornings for the women of the village to do their washing of clothes. Then a 24 hour service was established and continued until 1951 when the Saskatchewan Power Corporation took over. With the establishment of the Power Commission the 110 A.C. service was given so residents could indulge in the many modern conveniences that made life easier.

Till the year 1924 when medical services were needed, Doctors had to be called from miles away so the village council agreed to help pay for the Doctor hired by the R.M. of Victory. The first Doctor hired this way was Dr. Wallace Bond in 1924. Several other Doctors followed among whom Dr. M.

O'Brien, now made famous by the book "Saddlebag Surgeon" gave the villagers the benefit of his excellent service in the early 1940's. The need of a hospital was always in the villagers mind. Nursing homes run by practical nurse Mrs. Dan Stephen and others served at intervals until the late 30's but these were not adequate to accommodate the ever increasing population. So about the end of the



Line-up of trucks waiting to get their grain into the elevator.

1930's Tom Boyes converted his home into a seven bed hospital with two registered nurses each taking 12 hour duty operated till the retirement of Mr. Boyes. The hospital was then taken over by the whole community. Modern conveniences were added and today it is staffed with two Registered nurses, three ward aids, a cook, laundress and janitor and under the management of a local Hospital Board. For many years the Doctor lived in a house rented from a private individual but in 1953 the people of the village along with the country folk decided to have a permanent Doctor's house, so in the matter of a few weeks and the hiring of one paid carpenter, the



Beechy, 1947.

rest volunteer labor, a modern five room house was built. In this same manner a Doctor's office and waiting room was built.

Sports and recreation are always a must where people live. In the first days of the village, baseball held the limelight. About 1927 a very active Elks

Lodge was in operation. They undertook the erection of a two sheet curling rink with an open air rink for skating and hockey. They also provided the curling rink with four sets of curling rocks. This served the winter sports until 1952 when the Elks donated the property to the whole community. Again the community spirit set to work building a Quonset type skating rink incorporating the curling rink and adding dressing, lunch and waiting room and cisterns.



The fire of 1948.

Volunteer labor given with a spirit that couldn't be beaten elsewhere made it possible, the men pounding the nails and the women serving lunches. The children and adults of today are able to use the rink without worrying about every snow storm. Even figure skating is being taught. In 1954 a very successful Ice Carnival was staged and one is planned for 1955. We hope it will be an annual event.

Movies have been a weekly attraction since 1929. In the early years concerts with local talent were held every other week and always a Jitney dance finished the evening with ladies bringing lunch.

After the Second World War the Canadian



The fire of 1948.

Legion Local Branch bought and moved a hall into the village. Square dancing is held regularly bringing back what the early settlers introduced to the prairie.

In 1923 Constable Jim Gallon was installed as resident policeman. In 1926 Charlie Carey took over. The village continued to be the headquarters for the local R.C.M.P. till it was closed up.

Not all the history of the village is happy. It was in 1929 that the first major fire occurred. The Garage on Main St. owned by Sam Sunter was

burned to the ground. In December, 1948 a fire completely destroyed F. Miller's General Store, Closes Hotel and store and Barr Brothers Hard-



The equipment that saved the village.

ware (formerly Wm. Surgeson), and had eaten its way into the Co-op Store (originally Dave Santy's) before it was brought under control. It was shortly after the first major fire that the Village Council and ratepayers gathered to discuss the question of fire protection. As the village is located on a side hill with a coulee running through they decided to investigate the possibility of building a dam. One of the old timers, Mr. Furse, the local butcher had opened up the bank of snow which was holding back the start of the Spring thaw above the town. It flooded the town and frightened everyone to death.



After the fire.

The council decided it was a natural place for the dam. Two hydrants were installed on Main Street. In the 1948 fire this dam saved the village.

Throughout all these years many other services have added to the convenience of the residents of the district. A good, well-staffed bank branch of the Nova Scotia Bank of Canada has helped. Since the town became established there has always been a good butcher shop. In 1952 this was remodelled and enlarged and is now a modern locker plant, as well as a retail shop. The growth of the town has noticeably increased during the past five years. So many of the old settlers chose to build homes in which to live out their remaining years, rather than leave the district. Here they can remain in touch with the old neighbours and friends and sometimes when a feeling of nostalgia comes over them, they can take their cars and go see the old farmstead which their sons now farm with most of the modern machinery available, and can think backwards over forty years to their early struggles and triumphs and be able to say "It was a good life."



Train stuck in snow, 1951.



Beechy United Church congregation.



Snow Plow comes to the rescue.



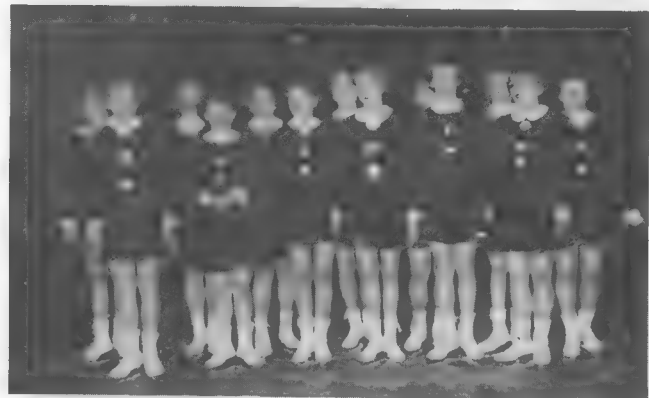
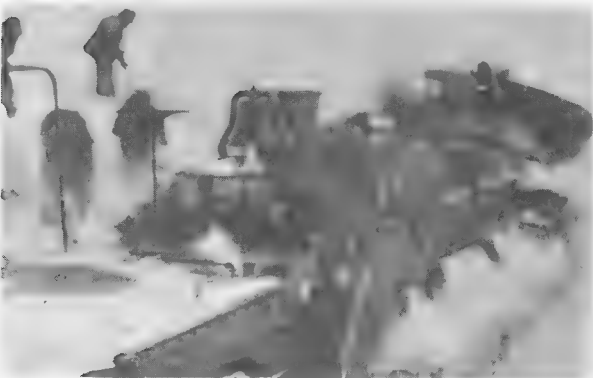
Farewell party in Beechy.



Men digging out the train.



Our Ice Carnival — 1954.





Our Community Hospital.

The Hamlet of Demaine in the R.M. of Victory, No. 226

In compiling the history of the hamlet of Demaine, it probably should first be noted, that, although there were a few settlers who pioneered in the district in the early 1900's, the district could hardly be classed as settled until about 1910.

The first post office, known as Demaine Post Office, was located on the old E. J. Demaine homestead, one-half mile west of the present location. The very early settlers brought their effects, mail and provisions for many miles by any mode available, but in the year 1910, the late E. J. Demaine started a post office and brought in the mail from Lucky Lake, which had been hauled there from the steel at Elbow. This, as in so many cases on the prairie, was the beginning of a district later to be known as Demaine district centred in that hamlet. Dances and other entertainment were held to make that the community centre.

The first Demaine school, later called Vendale, was built in 1911, four miles south of the present site and there, the children of the first settlers began their struggles with the 3R's. Later, probably in about 1914, the school called "Affleck" first and "Demaine" later was built on the homestead of R. W. Affleck, which is the present location. Built

in the first place to accommodate ten to twelve pupils, it was added to in 1924 to make it a two-room school.

Sports and recreation is a big factor in the development of any community and so it must be noted that as soon as the early settlers could, in fact, get settled, they began to cast about for ways and means of making their new home as much like the one they had left as possible. It wasn't long until



Alfred Johnson's first home.

they had their ball games going on those balmy Sundays that come in early spring. Then, all during the summer there were contests between settlers from far and near in nearly everything that could be contested without costly elaborate equipment. Horse shoe pitching, tug of war, horse races, swimming races, rodeos and football were some of the more popular. Picnics and socials, dances and other recreations were held wherever there was a concentration of settlers. This district was no exception and although some of these activities were held elsewhere, most were on the Demaine homestead.

In the first years, provisions were brought in from towns on the steel with every trip made to take the produce of the land out. This was, to say the least, inconvenient, especially in spring and fall when the river had to be crossed on the treacherous



Laying railway ties coming into Demaine.

ice. It was only natural for the more enterprising to realize the need of a local store and logically it was opened at the post office. The first such Demaine store was begun by the Grain Growers' organization with Mr. Demaine as manager. First trading began in 1916 and went very well until poor crops and prices put the strain of high credit on the organization and it collapsed.

About this time the long promised railroad was coming ever closer tie by tie, and when it reached Lucky Lake in 1920 with the prospects of it coming in here by the end of the year, things were at a fever pitch. Some wanted the town here, others there, and decisions had to be made that were to have far reaching effects. Here it should be noted



Taking out the first trainload of grain.

that there could not be any real progress or lasting civilization without the means of transporting goods easily in and out. So the coming of the railroad was a major event in the progress of this Hamlet and district. Picture now if you will the endless discussions by interested parties, wherever they would meet in school house, post office or on trail crossings, the pro's and con's on subjects as varied as where and how would the streets run to the location of the possible Hotel, Post Office, Theatre or Bank.

The railroad surveyors of course, had the last say in where the town should be laid out because



E. J. Danroth, 1915.

they had to have a suitable, level place for the crossing and elevator site. In the survey, they had the town dubbed "Scappa," but as soon as the district could see the realization of their dreams of a town, they knew what they wanted to call it. Immediately they took steps in the form of a petition to have the name changed to "Demaine," suitably named for one of the oldest and earliest pioneers in the district. A far nicer sounding name and one we are still proud of. It should also be pointed out at this time that the Demaine post office district had long since been identified by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, as one of the districts

yielding the finest milling wheat in the West and the far-sighted settlers were loathe to lose that identity. Enterprising and ambitious individuals saw the possibilities of this new country and even before the railroad came to the place where the survey had been made for a town, there was lumber being hauled in for store and hotel. Others moved buildings on surveyed lots, brought in supplies and set up shop.

Amongst these first courageous people was Lee Pettigrew, who bought the old U.G.G. store from the Association and moved it to a lot. He stocked



E. J. Danroth, 1915.

it as fully as was necessary in those pioneer days with the usual staple goods. Also, the late J. A. McLean (Mac as he was known later throughout the district) had run a small store for a short while just outside the survey, then moved it on a lot to use for living quarters while he built a store on the corner lot where he served the public for many years with Hardware, a little later with meats and groceries. At about this same time the late E. J. Demaine started building the large impressive Hotel



Early Breaking with an old Steamer.

where he was to have his post office and boarding house for many years. In that boarding house, Mrs. Demaine, his hard-working wife, fed most of the railroad crew. This crew organized from farmers in the district were putting in the big fill for the railroad across the coulee east of Demaine. Another homesteader with visions, Mr. A. J. Macdonald, moved in a shack and set up a Real Estate and Insurance office.

The Monarch Lumber Co. put up an office with Bill Anderson as manager and did a roaring business handling lumber brought in from Lucky Lake. Mr. R. W. Affleck, another early homesteader built a barn with Mr. Cummings as partner and were soon set up in the livery business. Mr. Geo. Whipper, a homesteader, looking to better himself, moved his homestead barn to town and started also in the livery business. To these was left most of the work of freighting in food and building supplies. Together with the excavating that had to be done, was the



Theodore Freidricksen; Martin Burrell; Ben Johnson; Alex MacDonald; H. Burrell; H. Lindvall; H. Smith; Alf Johnson; H. Martinson.

making of a basement for a new store being built by Mr. A. F. Moore, who opened up a large general store in 1921. With Bert Moore as proprietor, the store later known as Moore & McKinley prospered. The many years as the only General Store in Demaine would show how well satisfied the district was with Bert, his fair dealings and good business sense.

If one can picture the frenzy of excitement in the days before the railroad came in, try also to imagine the activity just after, in the early summer of '21. Elevators going up, more shops, residences. Those certainly were busy and also satisfying days to the homesteaders who had visioned it for nearly twenty years. The boom was on, the lumber yard was built, the Western Elevator and the next year the Co-op. But in the meantime a buyer, Mr. Bell, came over from Riverhurst and bought grain at the siding with only a shack for an office and a crude shelter for the grain. Two Chinese known mostly as "Skinny" and "Sam" put up a restaurant to serve the public with meals and rooms. A meat market with feed and flour supply house was erected by Gus Kramer. Mr. Remsby built a garage and blacksmith shop to service the farm machinery and first Fords in the district. A large Pool Parlour was built by Mr. Jim Harrington, where a man could relax in a game of snooker or pea pool. The pond back of the Demaine Hotel was used as a skating rink, some flooding done on it, benches around the outside where people gathered for winter sports. Another Lumber Yard was established by the DeWolfe Lumber Co. along Railroad Ave., with Mr. Sweeny as proprietor. About then, Mr. J. H. Burrell, also a homesteader, saw an opportunity for a machine agency in this small town, and, leaving his farm, set up shop dealing in

Page thirty-four

John Deere and Cockshutt machinery. All these numerous business places along with the new residences was rapidly changing the face of what was not long before just a bald prairie. Certainly a prosperous and active centre.

However, things can never be all good and the small struggling community was due to have a severe set-back. It came in the form of man's worst enemy — fire! Although it couldn't be classed as tragic because there were no casualties, it was nevertheless a set-back to the town. Gone was the garage, meat market, restaurant, Real Estate office, Pool Hall and several of the smaller buildings in that block. In those early days there was fire insurance to be sure. We even had an Insurance office, but so it goes, even the Insurance office wasn't insured. The community being made up of rugged pioneers and co-operative people, as it was, in the next few years built up the town to what it was and better. The Demaine Community Hall was built in 1924 by selling shares to people in the district. It is still run as a community enterprise to this day. The episodes and entertainments, socials, church gatherings and school classes shared there by all will never be forgotten but are far too many to mention.

The land had been good to the farmers with a good crop in '23 with fair crops until '27 and '28 which were bumper years. Most of the available land was broke and being tilled. It can easily be seen then how the business in Demaine could prosper and enlarge. In those years Spencer Elevator Co. had erected an elevator so now there were three buyers competing for the grain of the district. Mr.



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Burrell and party starting on their honeymoon.

A. E. Moore and Mr. L. Nuite, farmers of the district put up a garage to service the cars, trucks and tractors, that were gradually becoming more numerous. Mr. Rome Rice built a new Pool Hall and later traded it to a local barber homesteader, Len Swan, who was barber here for many years. Mr. Jim Swan built a Harness Repair Shop on Main Street and for several years plied that trade which in those days before tractors were common, was most necessary. A Meat Market was built and run by Mr. Meighton who stayed until the early '30's. A Flour and Feed Store was put up by Mr. A. E.

Moore and was used in Demaine for a number of years. Two oil agencies were in operation, Imperial and Prairie City. A. J. Macdonald opened a new and larger Insurance and Real Estate office. The Lumber yards were both doing well. George Porter had built a new blacksmith shop for shoeing the many horses in use in the winter besides the other



Picnic, 1911.

blacksmith jobs so general in those years. Mr. Geo. Whipper had built a large Livery Stable which was usually kept full to overflowing with farmers' teams, in town on business or pleasure, as was the case. The hitching rails and posts on Main Street were commonly used in good weather.

During that time other phases of life went on at about the same pace in the community. Roads were being built, streets built up, a new two-room brick school was built in 1929, making four class rooms available. A manse was built for the use of the Minister with church and sunday school being held regularly in the community hall. The ladies had



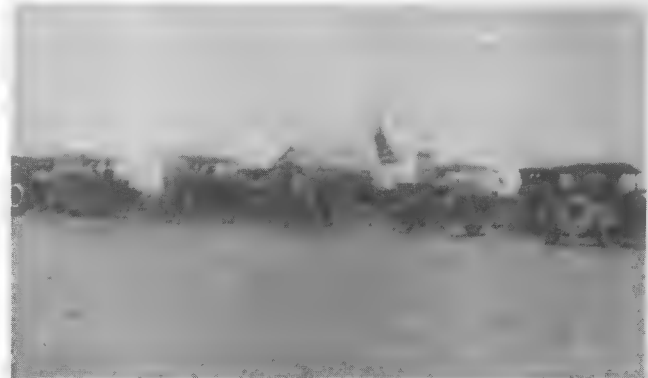
Mesdames Nuite & baby; Bailey; Baxter; Ludgate (Mrs.); King; Telfer (Miss); Demaine; M. Burrell; L. Swan; Mr. Cox; Grandma Scott; Stevenson; Front: Lowell Bailey; Mrs. N. Larson & Vernon; Mrs. R. Richards.

their W.A. and other social clubs where they could get away from their men folks and hash over women talks. The men had their Pool Hall. Perhaps this all appears inadequate, but to those who lived here in that period, it was a full and satisfying experience. In the summer, the community helped the business men put on a Chautauqua, a travelling group of theatre folk with all the fair day side shows, concessions and attractions that were usual. These were

attended with much pleasure by the residents and their children from many miles around.

After the good crop in '28, more tractors and bigger implements were sold, the school land was put up for sale and in the year of 1929, Demaine and district had a prosperous and booming air about it. Another elevator was built by Mr. Nerby, another garage by Mr. H. King, one more oil and gas agency. The first long distance telephone was installed in J. H. Burrell's office, and new houses and barns were being built as fast as help could be had. All this came to a standstill when the crash of '29 occurred and prices for farm produce went so drastically low. Some business places had to close their doors, others changed hands when owners left to find better paying work. Those that remained and those who came in were hardy folk and in the next few years which were lean to say the least, they held the town together and even made some improvements.

It should be pointed out now that when the Municipalities were formed, Demaine fell into the unfavorable position of being between Victory and Canaan, and so during this depression period, there was no bolstering up of outside influences such as municipal works, bank or doctor. The town and



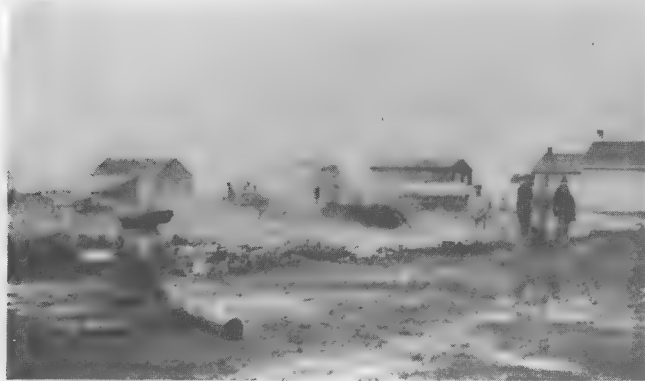
Cars at the ball game.

district are proud that under these handicapped conditions they managed to make this small Hamlet a centre of education and sport unequalled by towns of much larger population. The Demaine school was one of the first small towns to begin teaching the final years of High School, which with the fine staff of teachers always maintained, has been a benefit to the younger people of the community.

During the early 30's, an open air Skating Rink was built and within a few years it was the main recreational spot every winter. At this time Mr. Geof. Ringrose, a buyer employed by Federal Grain moved into Demaine. Although a grain buyer usually wouldn't rate special mention, Mr. Ringrose does. It was because of him, his interest in the town and sports that a Junior Hockey team was organized. Under Geof's management, coaching, bullying and pleading in the next few years, Demaine had a Junior team unequalled for sportsmanship and stamina. Many residents of this district to this day have a high regard for what Mr. Ringrose did for

the boys in those years. Hockey, the Canadian Sport deserves first mention, but in the first years of having a rink there was more legalized mayhem under the name of "Broom Ball" than can be imagined, if it was never witnessed. When winter was over, Demaine Sports were kept at a high level in baseball, softball and basketball. It was also in the 30's that the town built a tennis court where many hours of enjoyment were had.

During this period of financial difficulties the people of the district established the first Demaine



Demaine after the fire.

Co-op Association. It served the patrons under different managers beneficially and at the same time grew and expanded from a small granary for handling drums and carload lots of coal and wood until at the end of the 30's they had a nice office, gas pumps, bulk storage shed with tanks and a good sized coal and wood shed. It was also in the early 1930's that another chinese, Mr. Chas. Wong, bought out the restaurant and soon after built a new hotel that was and still is a credit to Demaine.

It would be gratifying and is often done, to show a steady, sure progress of one's town, but like so many small places during the 30's Demaine was hit too. It would be erroneous to even hint that



Hockey Team, 1938.

every business was booming and all was well. The Pool Hall was closed for some time, some of the elevators were closed, the Monarch Lumber Yard closed its office, as was the Harness Shop and Meat

Page thirty-six

Market. In fact the only businesses operating were those that were strictly necessary. Even the train only came in twice a week. If business came to a near standstill it was in sharp contrast to the social side of life in those hard days. The people of the district joined hands in an effort to supply amusement, entertainment and recreation to dispel the gloom brought on by empty pockets and in many cases, empty stomachs. When a family entertained, the refreshments could quite easily be cheese, potatoes, apples and Cod fish from one of the many relief cars. Shows were put on by the co-operation of the townspeople, card games were common during the winter months. The young people had their Literary Society and house parties, ball games staged in dust storms and the mode of travel had changed back from the auto to the "Bennet Buggy." Nevertheless, the social activities of that period stand out as "unequalled" before or since.

In the early 1940's with many of the younger men called into service and everyone helping in some way to bring the war to an early close, sports, recreation and social activities were more or less neglected. Business, on the other hand, began to pick up due to better crops and prices. Most of the shops were reopened to serve a more demanding public.



Demaines' old Skating Rink.

In some cases there were changes to be sure. E. J. Danroth and Noble Heiren had taken over the garage in 1937 and later Eddie ran it as sole owner and operator, giving good service on the machinery he sold and working hard to keep in good repair all the old machinery still being used in the district. There aren't many in this district who aren't indebted to Eddie for a hurry-up welding job or motor overhaul. The late Dan Scott and family had moved into Demaine from Sovereign to run the B.A. Oil in 1938 and the next year John Scott started trucking in and around the district. Many will remember the Scott family, Dan, Mrs. Scott, John and Jim, setting a fine example to all for friendly and cheerful living.

As time went on there were other changes and so it was that when Mr. E. J. Demaine passed on, his son Bud took over the job of Post Master, keeping it in the family for nearly 30 years until 1938 when he quit to go farming. It was then that Mr. Frank Eborn, a returned man and homesteader

from south of Demaine, took over as Post Master, converting the Harness Repair Shop and it still is used as such.

During the early years, one's recollection of the town in general was mud and more mud, especially in the spring. There wasn't any drainage to speak of because, as is so often heard, the C.N.R. put all their towns in sloughs. There had been some grading done on the streets, a wooden sidewalk ran a full block on the west side of Main Street with a cinder walk on the east. Some gravelling was done on the



Demaine Senior Team.

streets in 1937, but soon were as rough and rutted as ever. In 1945, the town was improved considerably by a cement sidewalk along the west side of Main Street and more ditches were dug for better drainage. Since the gravel was put on all streets in 1948 and with other improvements, the town has a much cleaner looking place.

A little later in this period there were important changes in business places. Mr. Dan Scott and family moved east in 1946. E. J. Danroth still with the garage, bought out Scott to enlarge his place, started selling implements and tractors for the Oliver Co. and as agent for G.M.C. products sold and serviced many units in the district. Mr. B. C. Burton took over the Pool Hall after Mr. Swan's death and ran it until he retired to go to B.C. In 1946, Mr. Bill DeMarre bought Charlie Won's restaurant and keeping up the tradition of cleanliness and good service that Charlie established, has improved his place and business until in 1955 no better stopping or eating place can be found to equal it in a place of this size.

After nearly a quarter century of service given to this community Mr. A. F. Moore left here to take over the Moore & McKinley store in Lucky Lake. The Demaine Co-op Association expanding its operations year by year by the patronization of its co-operators in the district, bought Moore's store and under that management is still giving good service to the community. In 1947 Mr. J. A. McLean also having given most of his good years to Demaine and district sold out to Mr. K. S. Macdonald, a young returned man who had been a Captain in the overseas army. Farmer and grain buyer in and around Demaine before serving in the forces, Ken adapted himself admirably to his new role of busi-

ness. Demaine and district can point with pride to the friendliness, fair dealing and the pleasant atmosphere that prevails in our stores.

In the late 40's and early 50's Demaine district, despite quotas and restrictions prospered to some extent and so the community was able in 1948 to buy an old United Church from Eston. After many years of holding church in the Community Hall, it was quite an event when, with the help of nearly everyone in the district, the basement was dug, cement poured and the church put on its new foundation. A new interest was stirred by the fact of having a proper church to the extent that Sunday School was organized again after a lapse of many years. Certainly a benefit to our future citizens, the staff of organizers and teachers should be commended for the high enrollment and their diligent service.

In 1920-22, when the first pioneers began to establish their homes and businesses, and later after the fire and consequent rebuilding, the people of Demaine had visions of some day throwing away their candles and coal oil lamps, which in those early years were quite necessary. To be sure, electricity was known in older settlements, but in a comparatively new settlement first things come first, so it wasn't until 1928 that the first 32 volt plant was put in by Mr. Herman Burrell. For a few years he supplied light and power to the Hall for picture shows and other entertainment. In 1929 and later years a few other plants were installed so that by 1949 there was power of a sort in nearly every home and shop. In that year, at a meeting of the Board of Trade, the decision was made to procure a central lighting plant. Bought and operated under a committee, it was run as a co-operative enterprise under the Board of Trade for two years. Power was sold at the rate of 25 cents per Kilowatt and



Citizens of Demaine clearing the track after a prolonged Blizzard.

due to the interest, ingenuity and conscientious effort of E. J. Shirliff, E. J. Danroth, James Scott and others, the old plant was kept operating and the townspeople could enjoy some of the benefits of modern living. Even at that time the Saskatchewan Power Corporation was making surveys of village and towns and power was expected in the near future.

Power to the residents in the early 50's was comparable to what was felt by the pioneers when

the first railroad linked them with the outside world. The benefits and advantages were of a different calibre, but just as great, nonetheless. Houses and shops were rewired or wired for the first time to meet regulations so it would be possible to hook up to the high line as soon as it reached completion. Progress of the Power Line was marked and discussed at length and as it reached the final stages and finally became a fact just before Christmas 1951 the general feeling of happy anticipation need not be emphasized. There was also a feeling of relief to those who had the responsibility of the old plant. Now, indeed could the Demaine populace look forward to better living, and those who had pioneered in the district, and later in the town, felt that their early struggles in a vast untamed land had not been in vain.

Telephones too were needed, not only for the business men to communicate with the outside, but also for the people to get doctors or help if needed. However, the telephone did not spread into the community as fast as people could wish. The first telephone as was mentioned earlier was in the office of J. H. Burrell with only long distance. From there, as the years went on, the switch board was changed to the Demaine Post Office, Dan Scott's and Roy Affleck's. At this time even the long distance was about to fold up when the Board of Trade took over and kept it going until 1948. At this time, line 8 from the Good Luck Telephone Co. with central in Lucky Lake filled the need of the people and ultimately, the Demaine Central was dispensed with.

With the end of the war and the boys returning home, sports again took on a new look, especially hockey, thanks to Mr. Ed Shirliff for the constant time he spent with the boys, practicing them and taking them to other towns for games over bad roads and good.

It was found that more room was needed in the residential part of town so in 1947, the rink was moved over to the part of town set aside as the Demaine Park. It is still an open air rink, but parents are working towards a closed rink in the near future.

One can see how this small Hamlet builds itself up, for by the help of everyone in the community, all projects are gone into with enthusiasm. The Demaine Community League runs the Skating Rink, the weekly shows held in the Demaine Hall, and in 1952 through combined efforts of all, a Curling Rink was built to the enjoyment of old and young alike.

Since the war, one must first go to the districts around Demaine to see the change that took place and so changed the Hamlet and its education. Farming was becoming so mechanized that farmers could take on more land and by looking after it with their machines, many of them moved into towns to farm from there. Because the farmers could now handle larger farms, a lot of farm homes became vacant. This made a much smaller or almost extinct enrollment in the small country schools. Some schools had to close for this reason and the children were hauled to town school. At this same time the government had put forth a forty hour a week for

labourers. This sent a majority into these jobs and so the teaching profession suffered. Teachers were very few and hard to get, especially for country schools. Something had to be done, whereupon Demaine and district organized a bus system in 1951 which brought in children from three small schools, Waterside, Rocky Ledge and New Hazelton. This proved to be so satisfactory that in 1952, another bus route was put on to bring in children from Vendale, Sunray and Canaan. With the bus working in summer and the bombadier in winter, the country children are getting the best of education with almost perfect attendance. With the present system educational needs should be well taken care of at a high level.

A small town with a relatively small district, to draw leadership and support from, should have the co-operation of everyone, all working toward the same goal. So it has been around Demaine through the years of establishment, fire, rebuilding, war, depression and finally into the progressive period of the early 50's when nothing seems impossible. For these cheerful, resourceful people, there is sure to be a bright future.

Beechy District Homemakers Clubs

Looking back over the many long years since our Homemakers Clubs were started brings back so many fond memories, as well as the hardships of the pioneer days.

The women had been so busy turning their hands to so many unaccustomed tasks, establishing a permanent home and raising the babies which kept coming along, there had been very little social life.

Mrs. Harry Hanscome who lived north-west of the district had the initiative to do something about



Jonesville Homemakers Club at Outlook Convention, 1951.

it. Realizing our loneliness and isolation she gathered the women of her district to her home for the first meeting. This was in November 1920 — without telephone, mail route and only Old Dobbin for transportation it was quite an undertaking to call the meeting. However a few women appeared and an extension worker appeared from the University. She explained the aims and the necessity of Homemaker

Clubs. It was enlightening to hear how much other women were accomplishing for their district and for the schools and children and the women of this district did not wish to be considered backward or unsociable. The outcome of this meeting was to organize the Neasden Homemaker Club; Mrs. Harry Hanscome, President; Mrs. Knutson, Sec. Treasurer.

Now that a start had been made women of the other districts realized how badly they needed the companionship of other women. In a short time six more school districts had a Homemaker Club within their limits each working for the good of the school and the community. The regular monthly meetings became an important event in many a weary women's life.

No early history would be complete without mention of the work done by Mrs. Ralph Claypool whom as first district convener of Public Health H.M.C. did a fine job of keeping us informed of what the province was doing to improve the health of its people, especially of the children; and it was



The original Ladies' Snakebite Grain Growers Club, 1916.

through her efforts we had a doctor and nurse from the Government Health Department examine all the pre-school children taken in to Beechy. Up to 1923 there had been no dental facilities and school children's teeth were in bad shape. Mrs. Claypool secured a dentist to examine and treat them at the school houses. Later Dr. Geiser a dentist made regular visits to Beechy doing his work in a room at the hotel. Many adults took advantage of this opportunity. A dental plate, including extractions was \$25.00 each plate. Mrs. Claypool along with Mrs. Joe Redmond were responsible for the first visit to Beechy of the T.B. Van.

By 1923 everything in the district had progressed. The steel had come to town and Beechy was established as a thriving village. Cars also were becoming more numerous, and many homes had greatly improved. It was in November 1923 that the first Annual Convention of Homemaker Clubs was held in the Beechy Hall. Miss DeLury, director of clubs from the University, Saskatoon, and Mrs. Fleming a guest singer came to help make it a success. In the evening a concert was held in the Beechy Hall — which was part of the building owned by Yip brothers — Chinese Hotel and Cafe. For many years these concerts were well attended by the whole district and looked for as eagerly as was the Convention by the Homemaker members.

Our director of Homemaker clubs sent out club programs which we would adapt to our abilities or resources. They were such a good guide in keeping our clubs on a useful, interesting and high plane. In fact by the time we had heard the minutes, reports from headquarters and discussion on health, schools, etc. exchanged helpful hints on housekeeping, cook-



Homemakers Convention in the Early 20's in Beechy.

ing, sewing, gardening and such there was no time for local gossip. That had to be reserved for neighbourly visits. It was in one meeting during 1921 that the need for a doctor was discussed. The women of the district could no longer bear the risk of being so far away from medical attention. After circulating a petition and getting the required signers Mrs. John Arntsen and Mrs. I. Dahlby presented it to the council of the Municipality who after discussion and making inquiries secured a doctor to practice under a Municipal plan. This proved very satisfactory and a boon to the district. Also a lasting achievement by the Homemaker Clubs.

Earlier than 1920 when the first Homemaker Club was organized there had been one women's club. This was an auxiliary of the "Snake Bite Grain-growers", the first men's organization. The members were mostly farmers and their wives south end of



Fruit trees in blossom.

the district. In 1923 the Snake Bite ladies club built a rest room in town. Donations from the different Homemakers Club furnished it. This was used for a short time. Due to poor crops and the difficulty of raising money for maintenance it was decided to

rent the building until it was cleared of debt. When the Municipal Doctor was established in Beechy this Rest Room was used as the Doctor's office for a few years. All of the Homemakers Clubs contributing to the rent. In 1926 the Snake Bite ladies organization decided to join the Homemakers Clubs and from then on was known as the Jonesville Homemakers Club. About six years ago the rest room building was sold and moved off. The two lots next to the bank being sold to the Municipality on



Peony and Lilacs.

which to build a residence for the Secretary. After a short time the proceeds of these sales was divided between Beechy Community Hospital, Cemetery, United Church Ladies Aid and the Community Rink.

Through the war years much good was done by the Clubs. Sending parcels to our men overseas, knitting for the Red Cross, making of an Autograph Bedspread by Jonesville Club members to send to Taplow Hospital in England for soldiers, and many other things were undertaken and accomplished.

Some of the Clubs were disbanded during the 1930's and 1940's and at present time 1955 three clubs are remaining as actively working organizations. The Jonesville Club being active continuously first as Snake Bite Grain Growers then as Jonesville for over 40 years. The Beechy Homemakers doing much good work for the town — hospital and skating and curling rink in particular. So enterprising is the latter club that they have just had published 1,000 copies of the Beechy Cook Book containing favorite receipts of the local women. Lastly the Suncrest Homemakers who have been organized for over a year. This is a young club but has many willing workers and with such enthusiasm should attain much good work.

Life members of the District: Mrs. John Arntsen, the late Miss McKeever, Mrs. A. H. Meaden, Mrs. A. Russell, Mrs. Wm. Richardson, Mrs. D. Santy. Several charter members with life membership pins and certificates of merit are still active members of Homemakers Clubs.

Page forty

Fairs and Exhibits

1920 — The first Fair of which there is a record was a Union School Fair held on August 27th, 1920 in Demaine School. The prize list shows: Agricultural exhibits, Ladies Work and school entries.

President was G. N. York, Vice-President W. Hunt, Secretary G. E. Willis, Judge T. Pennel, Lucky Lake.

1922 — An Agricultural Fair was held early August one mile south of Beechy organized by J. R. Paisley then the Secretary of Municipality-gardens, livestock.

1924 — The Beechy District Homemakers at their 2nd Annual Convention held on July 15th, 1924 sponsored the first display of Arts and Handicrafts. Because of the mixed nationality of the exhibitors much of the work represented the arts of their native lands and were beautifully done. The only baking entries were for bread — 24 women competing. There was a packed hall in the evening for a grand concert and prize distribution. 1924 Convener of Home Industries Mrs. Wm. Richardson assisted by Mrs. Dick Vels of Coteau Plains Homemakers Club were in charge.

1925 — In 1925 Houseplants and Flowers were added to the entries and display. These exhibits continued each year until 1934 and became one of the highlights of the Conventions. By this time seven Homemakers Clubs were in the district and only members of clubs could be exhibitors. During all these years the business men of Beechy donated the prizes.

1935 — On March 23rd, 1935 at meeting of the Homemakers conveners it was decided to widen the scope and hold an Agriculture Fair open to all interested people in the district. Men were asked to act on committees for Grain and Livestock. Poultry Pool and Wheat Pool Committees assisted. The fair of 1935 was very successful and has been an Annual event since that time. Records show cash



Sidney Adam's entry in the Fair.

prizes paid at \$31.25 with merchants donating merchandise for special prizes. No. of entries Livestock 9, Grain and Tent Exhibits - 206. Much interest was shown when Dr. Wells municipal doctor of Beechy offered a prize for the best baby under one year of age. His wife Dr. Mooney Wells acting as judge.

Winner of contest was Baby Marlene Schmid from Buffalo Basin District.

1936 — In 1936 the decision was made to organize an Agricultural Society. Victory being the name chosen named after our municipality (Victory 226).

President was Mrs. John Arntsen.

Vice-President was the late Mr. Bob Hunter.

Secretary Mrs. A. H. Meaden.

The fair exhibits were yearly becoming more numerous and sport events as side line attractions



The Parade at the Beechy Fair.

were increasing so a need of more money for prizes became apparent.

1944 — At the Annual meeting of 1944 it was voted that now the fairs were so well established the executive try to obtain the Government Grant available to Class C. Fairs. A minimum sign up of one hundred and fifty members was necessary to obtain a charter under the Agricultural Society Act. Committees were formed to canvass the district, resulting in over 200 paid up members and we were off to a good start. The Charter was granted on February 25th, 1945:

Mr. A. D. Hunter, President.

Mr. George Schury, 1st Vice-President.

Mr. Fred Swan, 2nd Vice-President.

Mrs. A. H. Meaden, Secretary-Treasurer.

Successful Fairs have been held each year since, organization both in exhibits and number of entries:

In 1954 — Livestock entries - 88

Grain and Tent Exhibits - 727

Cash paid for prizes \$681.00.



Our Orchard Project.

Through the years many projects have been sponsored besides the Annual Fair and Exhibition as follows: Machinery demonstration, Baby Beef Club, Orchard project, Field day, Summerfallow Contest, Seed Fair and Standing crop competition,

Shelter belt planting, sponsored local Community Rink. In 1954 the building of the Beechy Agricultural Society was erected on the Memorial Sports ground. Public subscription, municipal grant, Agri-



Mr. Neal Oliver first leader of Beechy Baby Beef Club and his Grandson on their farm.

cultural grant, and donations by other organizations made this possible. The work was done by the volunteer help of many of our finest citizens and will through the years stand as a fine memorial to all those who by their hard work and tenacity made the Annual Fair possible. No record of the Agri-



cultural Society and Fair Board would be complete without an appreciation of the work and enthusiasm of Mrs. A. H. Meaden who has been the Secretary Treasurer from its inception.

The Extension Department at the University and Department of Agriculture have been very co-operative in supplying judges and speakers for all activities of the Society when asked to do so.

Early Lutheran Church Organizations

As told by MRS. SIGRID DEZELL

A meeting of Norwegian neighbours for the purpose of forming a Lutheran Church Organization was held at the home of Gilbert Treslan on March 21, 1913. Pastor Land acted as chairman of the meeting and Gilbert Treslan, secretary. The name chosen for the Organization was "Ostervold" and the Board of

Trustees elected were Bert Vikanes, Elias Heimark and Ole Storebo. This was the first Organization of this kind in the Community.

At a later meeting a Committee to frame the Constitution for the Organization was appointed. These being Peder Dahlby, Elias Heimark and Geo. Bothner. At this meeting with the resignation of Gilbert Treslan, George Bothner became the Secretary.

At a meeting on November 29th, 1913 the Constitution in general use in Lutheran Church Organi-



The first Lutheran Ladies Aid at Demaine.

zations, with a very few alterations was adopted for Ostervold Organization. Landstad's hymn book were agreed upon by the committee. Pastor Land became the first minister and was promised \$80.00 a year by the Organization.

The annual meeting was held in Neasden School on December 27th, 1915 with Pastor Hofstad, who was now the minister acting as chairman of the meeting. The meeting was opened by prayer and hymns. The new Secretary elected was Ole Storebo



and one new trustee Olaf Flaterud. At this meeting the ministers salary was raised to \$100.00 annually.

The first child baptized in the Lutheran Church was Lillian Doris, daughter of Marie and Gilbert Treslan. By August 1927, thirty-two children had been baptized.

The Ladies Aid was organized in conjunction with the Church under the leadership of Mrs. George Bothner. These ladies also volunteered as Sunday School teachers.

Much credit goes to these early pioneers in those busy homestead days, who in spite of long distances of difficult travel, found time to get together for



Lutheran Congregation, Sunkist.

church and social functions, which helped to comfort and give courage during those war-torn years and later.

With the building of the United Church in



Lutheran Church at Neasden.

Beechy, "Ostervold" Lutheran Church Organization ceased to exist, with many of its former members giving their support to this newly formed church.

Anglican Church History

As told by MRS. H. LAMBERT

In the early summer of 1911, there came to the N.E. corner of what is now known as "Victory" municipality, an Anglican church student, Mr. J. Elliott. Services were held in the larger houses of the district. Mr. Elliott visited among the people taking care of their spiritual needs; and as he had taken a medical course he was able to help many who had the misfortune to suffer from minor accidents.

Mr. Elliott pitched his tent not far from Spring Lake, the beauty spot of the neighbourhood, and boarded with an Anglican family living nearby. There are few old-timers who can tell of his work today.

In 1912, the Rev. A. B. Ronald, a fully-ordained Church of England clergyman, who came out from

England the previous year, decided to file on a homestead adjoining Spring Lake. The lake is fed by springs, and the south side is well wooded. Hills surround it on all sides. The Ronald home was a large frame building, and faced east on a small hill with a flat top, with a fine view of the lake. Mr. Ronald said the sunrise was a glorious sight. The lumber for the building was hauled about fifty miles from Elbow. The house certainly looked fine compared with most of the homesteader's one-room "car-roof" houses, or sod shacks.

After Mr. Ronald got settled he wanted to start Church services, and as his house was the largest in the area, they were usually held there, though not always. All who could came out to the services since they filled a great need. During the week, Mr. Ronald visited a great deal, with his horse and buggy. Often darkness would find him far from home, and the people did their best to put him up, and his horse "Minnie". Everyone was pleased to have him stay with them.

One place where he stayed was a one-room shack, and he wondered where they would put him for the night. When it came time to retire, the housewife made him a bed on the floor, while she and her husband took the one bed in the room. A sewing machine was the partition between the two beds!

In the spring of 1913, a school was built in the district, and named Rob Roy, the combined names of two sons of two of the earliest settlers. From then on regular services were held each Sunday in the school. The services were always well attended. Those who lived nearby, walked; others came in waggons drawn by oxen, or horses. One man and his wife came on a stoneboat drawn by an ox and a horse. Some had a horse and buggy.

Mr. Ronald and his wife did great work in getting the Church started in the area. They kept in touch with the people, and were able to give financial help to those in need, since Mr. Ronald was a man of independant income, and he took no salary for his mission work. In November, 1914, after war broke out, he took his wife and two children back to England, and he joined the forces as an Army Chaplain. The whole district missed them; but their work is still being carried on.

In the summers that followed, students came to work this section of what was known as the Caron-Herbert Mission Field. At first these men came from Wycliffe College, Toronto, later on from Emmanuel College, Saskatoon, and more recently from St. Chad's College, Regina. Some of these men were ordained later and stayed on in Lucky Lake with Rob Roy as part of their charge.

In 1951, Services were begun in the Village of Beechy. At first these were held in one of the classrooms of the school. Now, in 1954, a small house, donated by a Church member, has been converted into a Chapel, and Services are held every Sunday morning. So the work grows, and with God's help and blessing may it continue to grow more and more.

Beechy United Church

As told by H. B. FITZMAURICE

The history of Beechy United Church began in the Jonesville district where the earliest settlement took place. At first it consisted only of weekly prayer meetings in the various homes, conducted by Mr. John R. Collins, one of the settlers of the district.

In 1912 when finally a school was built and a district formed, named after Mr. A. B. Jones, also one of the early settlers, the Presbyterian Church sent in a student named Mr. Pollitt to investigate the possibilities of a summer mission field. During the first summer he held services in Jonesville School and Mr. Collin's house.

In 1914 Collins' and Neasden schools were built and taken into the Jonesville Circuit.

A few years later Valiant and Coteau Plains were also taken in, with the minister serving three points one Sunday and two the next.

When the railroad came through in 1921 the community of Beechy was established with greatly accelerated settlement of the district.

In 1925 Dr. Strang, the Superintendent of Home Missions came out from Saskatoon and suggested that the Jonesville and Beechy congregations be



United Church Dedicated, 1928.

united as one, with services in Beechy school instead of Jonesville, thus making it possible for the student to serve more people. With Jonesville thus incorporated with Beechy, the Charge consisted of Beechy, Collins, Neasden, Valiant and Coteau Plains.

The Beechy congregation met in the school until 1929, served by a summer student each year from April to September. But in 1928 the community and district decided a church should be built, and Mr. Dave Santy, Sandy Hunter, John Redmond and H. B. Fitzmaurice were appointed to a finance committee to raise the necessary funds. Three thousand dollars was raised that year by voluntary subscription, and with a loan of fifteen hundred dollars from the Board of Home Missions, and the promise of volunteer labor from the men of the district the church was built under the direction of Mr. Joe Stretch.

Bad times followed immediately, and it wasn't until 1942 when Mr. Eric Tuplin canvassed the district for funds that the mortgage was finally paid.

The Beechy Circuit carried on with summer students until 1953 when the desire was expressed for an ordained man. Overtures were made to the Presbytery, and it was learned, owing to the shortage of ministers, that Beechy could not hope to get an ordained man by themselves, but that their case would be favourably considered if they joined forces with the Lucky Lake Charge.

This was discussed by the various congregations concerned, and the country congregations expressed the desire to come to Beechy and worship in the church here, provided the services of a full time minister could be procured.

These plans were approved by Presbytery, and Mr. David Marshall, a lay minister of long standing, was appointed to the Charge with the privilege of administering the sacraments and performing the marriage ceremony. Today the Beechy congregation, in association with Demaine and Lucky Lake, thus receives the full services of the Church on a full time basis.

Roman Catholic Church

The first visits to the Beechy district by a Catholic priest were made during the summer of 1915. These visits were made by a priest from Rosetown. The first masses were said at the home of Mrs. Hanscoms. Prior to 1915 Beechy pioneers occasionally attended mass at Whitby School east of Lucky Lake.

In 1917 the Catholic settlers of Beechy, Birsay, Dinsmore, Lucky Lake and Wiseton bought a Model T Ford and gave it to the priests at Rosetown to enable them to visit these districts more regularly. Between masses from Rosetown, early settlers would club together and travel to Riverhurst where Father Caraher, who lived at Marquis, would come to say mass.

During the years 1920 and 1921 mass was occasionally said at the home of John Flynn, 3 miles north of the present townsite. In the following three years mass was usually celebrated in the hall in Beechy.

During 1924-25 the Catholics in Beechy district clubbed together and built their own church. This was blessed in 1925 by Bishop Mathieu of Regina, and was dedicated to Saint Mary Margaret. At the same time the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered for the first time in the Beechy district. As in all pioneer districts there were many adults to be confirmed at this time. The first child baptized in this new church was Margaret Flynn, daughter of John Flynn.

The next 23 years witnessed a fairly regular routine of masses during the summer months, when possible, by priests who lived first in Riverhurst, and after 1939, in Dinsmore. Father P. Elder served the parish for seven years from the years 1940 to 1947.

In 1948 the parish center was moved to Milden

Page forty-four

where it has remained since. In 1953 the little church was replaced by a larger more imposing structure with a full basement. This new church was built by the parishioners at their own expense and with their own labor. They are rightfully proud of their progress during the years.

The younger generation look back to the work



Original Catholic Church dedicated 1925.

and devotion of the pioneers with a prayer of thankfulness. It is, in no small way, due to their devotion and faith that the faith has been kept alive and passed down to their sons and daughters.

History of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Beechy

As told by JACOB WIENS

A few families that had moved into this district as immigrants from Russia where they had left all their belongings and also the right to worship, gathered in 1925 as a group to worship in the Pleasant Butte hall which was then standing on the N.W. corner of Sec. 34-20-10-3rd. In 1926 in spring of the year Rev. and Mrs. Wiens moved into this district and Rev. Wiens as a layman served the group. Then in the fall of 1926 the group was organized as the Mennonite Brethren Church and was accepted into the Canadian Conference and the North American Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches. In 1932 Mr. J. D. Kuebert was ordained as minister of the gospel and Mr. A. H. Dueck was ordained as Deacon. They served with Rev. Wiens till the late thirties. Rev. Wiens served till 1944 when he retired and moved to Herbert. In 1942 it was decided to build a church and a small parcel of land of 2½ acres was bought and the church was built on the N.W. corner of the N.E. ¼ of Sec. 32-21-10-3rd. In 1944 the church was finished and on September 24th was dedicated. The church stood in that valley for ten years, a place of worship and also as a landmark. In 1954 the church was moved into Beechy. From 1926-1930 the membership increased to 75. From that date until 1954 the membership has decreased to 25 members.

History of the Mennonite People in the Beechy District

As told by JACOB WIENS

It was in the year of our Lord 1923 that the first family came from Main Centre to live in this district. It should perhaps be mentioned that the Mennonites that live in this district all came from Russia in the years from 1923-1928.

The first family to settle here was Mr. Jacob Peters with his family. They lived on the old Heft place about eight miles south of Beechy. Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Nickel followed with the Woelk Brothers George and Dave. By 1925 there were approximately ten families. By 1930 there were approximately 30 families. Most of these families lived south east of Beechy on the Pleasant Butte flat. Many were the hardships to overcome, the language to be learnt and the manner of dress so different. They soon adjusted themselves to this land that became their land. Everything that was lost in Russia during the revolution was more and more forgotten.

The crops were fair to good in the 20's. When the drought struck in 1930 with the depression most of the families moved away some to better land in the district. Of the first settlers that came to this district only about five families are left — Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Braun, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Braun, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Nickel, Mr. and Mrs. David Woelk. There are approximately 15 families now living in this district. Ten of these families are the first generation of the first settlers.

Baseball

On May 24, 1912, a picnic was held at the old Demaine School (later known as Vendale). They had a baseball team from that district but no one to play against. Andrew Robberstad, Laurence Bailey, and others thought they could get up a team to play against them and they did. This turned out to be the introduction of the very famous Collins Baseball Team. The players picked up that day were: Catcher — Andrew Robberstad, Pitcher — Loney Bailey, 1st — Andrew Johnson, 2nd — Oscar Bailey, 3rd — Jake Johnson, Fielders — Andrew Lufgreen, Frank Collins, Albert Sandvold, Umpire — Dave McCurdy. That game was easy for the pick-ups. A meeting was called for a few days later at Pleasant Butte School (which was nearly completed and opened shortly afterwards) and all interested ball players were to attend. There the Collins team came into being with Andrew Robberstad appointed Captain and Dave McCurdy was appointed Manager. Players were recruited from the Snake Bite Coulee to Minnie Lake. Two practice fields were set up, the home field at the above mentioned site and the other at Hungerford's farm. In 1912 and 1913 the team never lost a game. That team consisted of: Catcher — Andrew Robberstad, Pitchers — Wallace Hungerford, Loney Bailey, Jim Bailey, 1st — An-

drew Johnson, 2nd — Kenneth Rapple, Short Stop — Jake Johnson, 3rd — Laurence Bailey, Fielders — J. P. Paisley, Oscar Bailey, Joe Evenson, C. J. McElhone, Herman Heft, Ole Robberstad. Jesse and Rome Hungerford were just boys at that time but played a few games.

On the first of July 1912 Kenneth Rapple walked from his homestead at Minnie Lake to Andrew Robberstad's farm to catch a ride to Belleheumer's Ferry to play ball. Andrew Robberstad had left before he arrived so he walked to Belleheumer's Ferry, played three games of ball, attended the dance that evening and walked from Robberstad's to his homestead, the next morning, a total distance of approximately 50 miles, a tribute to the sportsmanship and determination of the early pioneer.

In 1914 Dave McCurdy joined the forces and the ball team managed themselves. They played at homestead picnics and anywhere they could get a game. Local picnics were held at Treslan's, Sherrards



First Ball Team — Collins.

and Hungerfords. Besides baseball, wrestling was a big event. Men such as Roy Bellows, Ralph Claypool, Bert Reed and Gus Carlson were outstanding wrestlers amongst the homesteaders. The local band under the leadership of George Seims added to their merriment and horse racing became popular.

As years passed by the ball team took up new blood, Jesse Hungerford grew into the greatest pitcher of that time. Players added through the years were: Roy Bailey, Billy Cooper, Fred Bailey, Clarence Johnson, Tommy Cooper, Dave Gray, Art Good, Jessie King, Rome Hungerford. The team took on a new name in 1922 and began playing as Beechy. At that time only three of the old regulars were left: Andrew Robberstad, Rome Hungerford, Jesse Hungerford.

Dave McCurdy never took an interest in the ball team after his return from the war. Unbeknown to most people he had a ball team in France and lost them to the last man in one days action. He never regained his incentive to manage another.

An outstanding event in the history of most players was in 1915. The team drove to Riverhurst ferry and all camped on the west side of the river for the evening, sleeping in tents, on the ground and in buggies. They crossed the river next morning to take part in the ball tournament to find that the

sports thought the team was from Swift Current and had disallowed their entry. However they finally convinced the committee they were homesteaders from across the river and were allowed to play and had to play three games. Pitching all three games to win the tournament was Jesse Hungerford. But don't forget he had marvelous support. Much credit goes to Andrew Robberstad who was the main spoke in the large wheel which kept the team rolling as a good catcher and a utility fielder second to none. Umpiring in those days usually fell to Dave McCurdy and Ralph Claypool.

Baseball took a set back then and was not picked up again until around 1931 when a meeting was organized to form a ball team. The suits were made by local ladies. The following were the members of the team: Richard Lampman, Catcher, Bill Doring, Catcher and outfield, Frank Gaddy, Pitcher, Charlie Pegg, Pitcher, 3rd and Catcher, Ronald Surgeson, Pitcher, Don Bell, 1st, Neil Brekkon, 2nd, Glenn Coulter, Short Stop, Geoff Ringrose, 3rd, Ed Taylor, outfield, Jim Malloch, outfield, Herman Ashton, short stop and outfield.

As time passed and money became scarcer, baseball became localized and a source of entertainment rather than a mastered sport. Ball teams were formed in all rural districts. Coteau Plains with a playing field at George Batdorf's farm, Neasden with a playing field at Harry Garret's, Howendale with a playing field at Sandy Hunters, Valiant at These teams met and played with the spirit of big leaguers and developed good ball players as a result. The harvest of this was a better team playing under the name of Beechy once again managed by Ed Taylor. This was about 1935 and 1936. Some of the players on the team were: Chuck Whidden, Bill Bailey, Hugh Hunter, Lester Bothner, Claude Oleson, Charlie Arntsen, Arthur Rodda, Floyd Robberstad, Gordon Hunter, Stan McIvor, Ray Whidden.

Demaine in the meantime was trying also to keep a ball team together. In 1932 under the management of Geoff Ringrose they got a team together and played in the Howendale, Valiant, Demaine and Beechy League. Then ball went dead and a junior team was started in 1934 again under Geoff Ringrose. Some of the players played for Beechy in the Senior team. Money was so scarce that it was hard to get equipment. In 1934 Demaine had a tournament to try to raise money. As they didn't have any money to cover losses they put the prizes on a percentage of gate receipts basis. It was a great success and they were able to pay back debts and still have enough for needed equipment and a "nestegg" to keep them going. Any money that was left at the end of each summer was used for hockey in the winter and visa versa. As practically the same players were in both this seemed a good idea. This went on a few years until shortly after the war started when so many of the boys enlisted that it was hard to find enough players. From then on baseball was kept alive by Hugh Hunter. Hugh pitched game after game with very little relief and many a one hit game turned out to be a loss

because of weak support but he loved the sport more than the glory and managed to hold a team of some kind. In 1950 the Coteau Hills baseball league was formed with: Beechy, Lucky Lake, King George, Birsay, Macrorie, and Dunblane. This league was well founded and well managed and still stands with the exception of Dunblane who has been replaced by Dinsmore. Outlook and Demaine each have had a team in the league for one year. Baseball is in a better standing than it has been for many years. The only old regular playing at this time was Hugh Hunter and still pitching winning ball games from the mound. In his twenty-five years on the mound Hugh feels his greatest victory was an extra innings game at Victory Recreation centre against Central Butte. In the second overtime inning Beechy took the lead 1-0. With one out, the top of the batting list up, Hugh won the game by two successive strikeouts. Beechy never won the tournament that day, but did the next year with Hugh pitching three straight. His hardest loss was a game at Beechy sports when he struck out nine men, played two out from the mound and two men were cut off stealing bases by the catcher to make a total of 13 outs in a lost five inning ball game.

In the years from 1950 to 1954 baseball in Beechy ran along very smoothly. This was mainly due to their entry in the Coteau Plains baseball League and the great fan support they were given. Large attendance at games and sports days made the team self-supporting. The greatest loss to the team of this era was the retirement of pitcher Hugh Hunter. This chore was taken up by the younger members of the club who made their start in ball at the Victory Recreation Centre. Don Hagemiester, Bernard Welch, Garry Schotanus. Other faithful members whom seldom missed a game were Albert Meaden, Gerald Ringrose, George Barr, Morris Storebo, Kieth Law, Corney Smith. In 1952 the first pee-wee baseball team was organized by A. Yeaman and by 1954 under the management of John Barr this team became a strong contender in their class. The members of this pee-wee team, the great grandchildren and descendents of the original baseball players of 1912 through improved facilities and better times are still carrying on the game in the same great spirit as their forefathers.

Hockey

The winter season of 1935-36 saw the first organized hockey game in which Beechy participated. It was merely a pick up of players from Demaine playing against players from Beechy. A few former hockey players from Beechy responsible for this move were Walter Thorne, Don Bell, and Perry Miner.

Next season both Beechy and Demaine had organized hockey teams. Beechy under the coaching of Walter Thorne; Demaine under the coaching of Geoff Ringrose. The Demaine team was made up mostly of players in their early teens who developed

a great deal of pattern play and trickery to compensate for their size.

Despite open air ice and poor winter roads hockey developed from year to year. Players spent many hours shovelling snow before practices and games. It was determination not opportunity that produced the hockey player of that day. Winter travel was a big handicap lessened only by the efforts of Neil Oliver in Beechy who always had a



First organized hockey team.

team available and took an active part in the management. Later he developed a snow tractor, with skis on the front, chains on the rear wheels and a bobsled trailer on the rear.

Possibly the most remembered Beechy game of that time was played at Lucky Lake January 27, 1938. Neil Oliver and Gordon Hunter combined their two teams to make a four horse outfit which was hooked to the Rawleigh van (owned at that time by Evalt Wilzer). The boys arrived just in time to play hockey and all went to the dance that



Neal Oliver Snow Tractor hauling hockey team.

followed. The next morning they drove home while the mercury dipped near 30 degrees below. A long cold trip enlightened only by the entertainment of two centremen.

This brings us up to the Beechy Co-op Hockey team Mr. Paul Wells of the Security Lumber Co. was now coaching. A reshuffle of position and hard practise produced a different hockey team and possibly spoken of as the first Beechy Hockey team.

The local Co-op (after other sources failed) were approached by the team to sponsor the clubs uniforms. Mr. H. Fitzmaurice donated half the price to be retained from his salary and the Co-op financed the sweaters. This ended a long losing streak for the team and the Co-op sweaters fell few times to victors on home ice.

By 1941 the entire team had volunteered for active service with only two failing their medical.

After the war hockey took up new life and new blood, also a new name, Beechy Bombers, but open air ice kept hockey at low ebb. The team of 1948 with 12 wins and one tie was possibly the strongest team Beechy had so far iced.

In 1952 the rural and urban citizens united their forces to finance and build by volunteer labour a new skating arena and hockey advanced by leaps with the Bombers becoming the greatest team produced in Beechy. At that time only one of the old



Girls' Hockey Team.

regulars was still playing (Danny Arntsen) but he retired mid-way through the season.

In 1953-54 the Coteau League formed consisting of Kyle, Beechy, Lacadena and Elrose with Danny Arntsen as President of the League. Under the playing coach of Albert Meaden, and the management of Johnnie Schotanus the team came through to win the play-offs and the Jensen trophy awarded for Annual Competition.

The Season 1954-55 saw greater efforts in promoting hockey, with four organized teams in Beechy. The Senior Hockey team and Rink Committee decided through a vote to hire a playing coach and were successful in getting a good man for the job. All the teams are showing a great deal of improvement under the schooling of the coach and the wonderful support of the community.

HOCKEY IN THE COUNTRY

On the dam at Johnny Schotanus's farm, 15 miles northwest of Beechy, some of our hockey players of today started. Some came as far as 15 miles regardless of the cold weather and snow drifts to practice. After shovelling snow for two to three hours to clear a space of ice large enough, they could sit on a rock or a snow bank and put on their magazine or sweat-pad shin guards, skates and with puck and stick were ready to play. Their goal

consisted of a pair of rubber boots set up on the ice and the goalie with a scoop-shovel to keep out the puck.

Many of our girls enjoyed skating here and also



Senior Hockey Team 1954-55

joined in playing hockey. After four years of hockey on the dam they decided they needed a rink. With high community spirit funds were raised, boards and labour were donated and our dream came true.



Beechy Hockey Team — 1947-1948.

This rink was built on the farm of John Schotanus Sr.

Our boys now felt they were ready to go out and play against other teams so engaged a game



Hockey Teams — 1953-54.

with the Beechy School team in Beechy's open-air rink and won. much to the surprise of the opposing team.

Page forty-eight

Skating for all and moonlight skating parties were very popular too. Regardless of the weather or how much snow they had to shovel anywhere from 25 to 50 people would gather to skate. Lunch was donated and enjoyed by all.

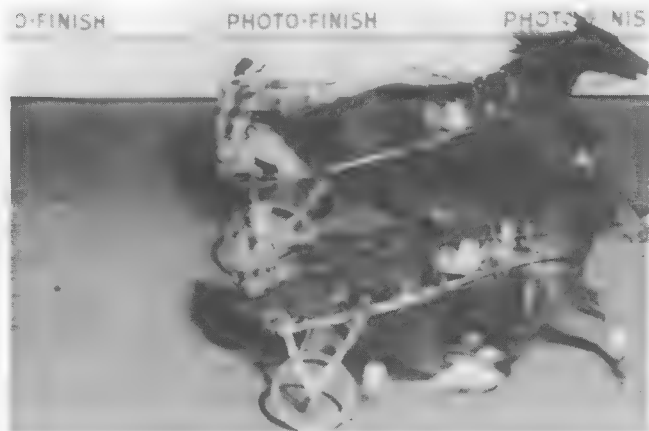


Pee-wee Hockey Team — 1955.

Due to the large closed-in rink built in the Village of Beechy our small rink like a lot of things just folded up but has never been forgotten.

Recreation

During the summer of 1948 our local butcher and horse man Jim Sharpe talked horse and lived horse and through his efforts and the co-operation of the Village Council built a Race Track in the fall of 1948. This work was done by our local R.M. of Victory No. 226 equipment. In June 1949 we held our first Race Meet. We had quite a time getting horses as this track was not registered. An



Jim Sharpe and Scotty No. 3

old Race Horse man Art Hunter from Hanley came to our rescue and brought two horses making a total of three horses. With Jim Sharpe's horse Scotty and Art Hunter's two horses we held three heats, Sharpe's horses winning one which gave the

crowd a good thrill. In 1950 we registered the track in the Mid-West Circuit, built a race barn and held our race meet June 19, 1950. A good meet with 20 horses to pick from — a great success. We have been holding our races every year in June with bigger and better racing every year.

Victory Recreation Centre

This was at one time called "The Snakes Ball Field" but when organized in the winter of 1945 and 1946 by five districts was renamed Victory. The districts were Coteau Plains, Buffalo Basin, Valiant, Minnie Lake and Howendale.

The money to organize was raised by selling



1947 Victory Recreational Centre.

shares at \$5.00 and \$10.00 each. The money was paid back as the centre progressed.

The Victory grounds was located 12 miles north and west of Beechy on the farm of the late Mr. Galloway. The land was leased from him. A successful bowery dance and sports day was held the first year. At that time there were two ball teams — the Senior team helping the Junior team. Johnny Schotanus was the manager and his enthusiasm did a lot toward keeping things rolling. A ladies' soft ball team was also part of the entertainment and also horse-shoe games were enjoyed by many. In the



Victory Hockey Team.

years 1947 and 1948 there were a great many improvements made such as a booth and a fence and also a teeter-totter for the children.

Although the Victory Centre is no longer in existence it was one of the links in helping create the Memorial Centre in Beechy.

Spring Lake

A few miles north and east of Beechy is Spring Lake. This body of water is created by drainage and by natural springs. A narrow height of land and trees is the dividing line between the East Lake and the West Lake.

This lake was an asset to the district as the early settlers hauled their supply of water from there for both house and stock. There were several early



Aileen Godson; Mrs. Carey & daughter; Mrs. Furse, Spring Lake.

prairie fires when the lake proved invaluable as a source of water supply for helping to put them out and also a natural barrier to prevent fire spreading south.

But what the settlers best appreciated, as the years rolled by, was the ideal spot the lake made for get togethers — people coming as far as 20 or 30 miles by horse and buggy to camp out there for a few days holiday.

In the late 1920 and early 1930's cars being



Cottage at Spring Lake.

more and more plentiful people began looking on it as a small resort. On one side of the lake Lucky Lake district built some cottages and Beechy and Demaine took the side closest to them and also built it up. There was a good golf course for both sides to enjoy and swimming and boating for all.

The Elks of Beechy built a cook house and dressing rooms for men and women which were greatly appreciated. In 1932 and 1933 the Elks sponsored holiday camps for both boys and girls of the Beechy district. The student minister with

the help of several men supervised the boys while Mrs. Dick Vels then leader of the C.G.I.T., with the help of several men supervised the girls. Mrs. John Arntsen, assisted by the district ladies, did the cooking. This was the first holiday that many children had away from home.



Picnic at Spring Lake.

It was a real loss when the drought spoiled the lake and people had to look farther afield for their swimming and boating.

Early Livestock

First cattle other than the ranch cattle were mostly oxen and a few cows brought in by farmers with families. Oxen had gradually been displaced by horses during the high prices received for grain in the first world war.

Beef cattle increased during this period and most families had a few cows, limited by the amount of pasture available.

With the Matador Land and Cattle Co. giving up their lease, and the ranch being turned into a Community pasture in 1922 run by the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and stocked with pure bred bulls, the first real improvement in livestock in the district began.

The Government also instituted a policy of supplying purebred bulls to groups of farmers. During the hungry 30's many farmers had to liquidate a large part of their herds when feed was not grown in the district, and the Government would only supply enough feed for two head to each farmer. Prices were so low it didn't pay to ship. Price of beef locally was only three cents per pound.

Beechy Baby Beef Club

By GORDON MEADEN

In 1944 Beechy Baby Beef Club was organized under the sponsorship of Victory Agricultural Society with Neal Oliver as leader. He received the five year Leadership award in 1949. Some of the younger farmers got interested in raising better cattle, through the training received in the Club. Wm. Surgeson, Beechy hardware merchant donated a silver trophy for Annual Competition among the Junior Club members.

Page fifty

After the club achievement day in Beechy, members take their calves to Swift Current Fair, competing with other Clubs in the Province. They have



Beechy Baby Beef Club, 1946.

taken first prize in Best Group of Eight Calves and also prices in Shorthorn class. Present leader is Gordon Meaden who was a former club member.



Beef judging at Oliver Farm.

The Club is now a 4H Club and members show keen interest. Hereford and Shorthorn cattle are raised in the district. A number of Pure Bred Bulls



Trophys won in 1946 by Beechy Baby Beef Club.

have been bought by farmers under the new Government Bonus Policy thus raising quality of cattle. A T.B. and Bangs free area is now in process of being formed.

Beechy Grain Club

A grain club was started in 1954 with Mr. Clarence Robberstad as leader. The members are very enthusiastic and have lots of support from their parents. They held their first achievement day in November 1954 not a very good crop year due to the rust but the members did a lot of good work and made a good showing for their first year.



WORLD WAR I

Abrams, Howard*	McKean, Mervin
Adams, Tony	McConechy, Gordon
Allinson, Joe	Kadla, Louis
Bidwell, Frank*	Kadla, Gerry
Blakey, Art	Mitchelmore, Francis*
Burton, Bede C.	Milburn, Tom
Chovin, Joseph	Murphy, Clarence
Cornish, Harry	Peterson, Carl
Fleuter, Victor Sr.	Prendergast, Ralph
Basset, Gus*	Riggs, Frank
Eborn, Frank	Scrine, Rodney
Hall, George	Sharp, Cyril
Galloway, Henry	Stretch, Joseph
Goodwin, Till	Taylor, Richard
Greard, Peter	Pritchard, Jack*
Howard,*	Roffey, Geoff
Knutson, Caleb	Roffey, John
Kirby, Austin*	Wade, Jim
McCartnet	Watson, Frank
McCurdy, Dave	Fast, John

WORLD WAR II

Adams, Gilbert	Buchanan, Gordon
Affleck, Lyle	Burrel, Perry
Anderson, Lorne	Cameron, Allen
Arntsen, Charles	Carr, Lloyd
Arntsen, Danny	Cornish, Leslie
Basset, Orva	Covey, Henry
Basset, Glenn	Covey, Lloyd
Basset, Lyle	Delparte, Alvy
Baxter, Elmer	Dezell, Raymond
Baxter, Byron	Dirkson, Bernard
Bellows, Edward*	Elsworthy, William
Bellows, Frank	Esson, Malcolm
Bellows, Lloyd	Esson, Norman
Blenkiron, Kathleen	Evenson, Josephine
Blenkiron, Jack Sr.	Fritz, Calvin
Bothner, Alvin	Gray, Melvin
Bothner, Lester	Hall, Thomas
Bowman, Willard	Heimark, Conrad

Heimark, Harry	Stretch, Brexton
Hunter, Archie	Stretch, Chester
Laws, Frank	Stretch, Ronald
Lees, Walter	Surgeson, John
Link, Henry	Surgeson, Ronald
MacDonald, Ken	Swan, George
McLeod, Norman	Swan, Orione
McLeod, William	Taylor, Edgar
McLean, Oliver	Taylor, Stanley
Nerby, Douglas	Thurlow, Lonnie
Nerby, Roger	Tuhkala, Marty
Nuitt, Trevor	Turner, Edwin
Olsen, Claude	Vallevand, Chris
Payne, Clifford	Vallevand, Howard
Richardson, Joseph	Vels, Kees
Robberstad, Harland	Vels, Nelson
Robberstad, Melvin	Veskerna, Ralph
Rhodda, Arthur	Vikanes, Perry
Rhodda, Clair	Wellwood, Elgin
Saggs, Ivan	Wellwood, Russel
Saggs, William	Wellwood, Vernon
Salstrom, Al	Welch, Mervin
Schapter, Aubrey*	Welch, John
Scott, George	Whidden, Chuck*
Scott, Bert	Whidden, Raymong
Sheridan, Leo	Wright, George
Skinner, Victor	Yip, Danny
Skinner, Lorne	

* killed in action

History of the Beechy Co-operative Farm Association Ltd.

By JOHN TREW

The Beechy Co-operative Farm is located approximately twenty miles southwest of the village of Beechy, Saskatchewan, in the old Matador hay meadows. In the early days of the large Matador Ranch this area produced "prairie wool" for winter feeding. In later years it was leased to smaller ranchers and local farmers on both sides of the South Saskatchewan River. As the history of the Matador ranch is being covered elsewhere, the intention of the writer is to leave this portion to the Matador historians.

During the years 1944-46 a study of Co-operative farming was carried out by leading co-operators, veterans of world war two, University professors and members of the provincial government. As a result a planning committee was set up to aid interested farmers in the establishment of Co-operative farms. Several groups of individual farmers pooled their resources and began farming co-operatively. There were two or three blocks of crown land held partially for Veterans co-operative farms. The area now known as the Beechy Co-operative Farm was one of these. In the fall of 1948 approximately ten sections of Sceptre Heavy Clay and Sceptre Clay were made available to the Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development for the organization of a veterans Co-operative farm.

In March of 1949 a school was held in Swift Current, Sask., for prospective members of the future Beechy Co-operative Farm. There were some thirty-five veterans from all over the province in attendance. There were members of other Co-operative farms, Co-operative speakers, farm management speakers, a P.F.R.A. man, soil experts, experimental farm personnel, under the guidance of Mr. H. E. Chapman — Director to teach the students the rudiments of Co-operative farming as it was then known. As each Co-op farm has several unique qualities and where one method of operating will be satisfactory one place and not in another the wish of these instructors was more to guide the students on new frontiers rather than to teach known facts.



Co-op Farm Camp Site, 1949.

As previously stated there were some thirty-five students at the school. There was enough land for twelve veterans. There was a membership selection committee consisting of a representative of V.L.A., Sask. Dept. of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, and the Dept. of Agriculture. As the men going to Beechy would be subject to existing regulations both Federal and Provincial for settlement, rehabilitation and finance, the veterans were selected by the point system, whereby all crown land in Canada was allocated where there was more than one applicant for a parcel of land. As a result the sixteen men with the highest priority were selected and the first organization meeting was held on the afternoon of the last day of the school. A provisional executive was elected with John Trew as chairman and Fred Bolding as secretary. After much deliberation it was finally agreed that the farm be named the "Beechy Co-operative Farm Association Ltd."

There were now sixteen veterans wishing to farm co-operatively in the Beechy area. It was suggested and agreed upon by the selection committee that the sixteen veterans work together for two months and select twelve members by joint agreement at the time of incorporation. As no one knew where he stood on the priority list it was decided that the twelve top men should form the new farm with the remaining four to be given first opportunity at replacements if any of the first group should decide to leave.

A committee consisting of Cecil Fraser, Severt Egeland and Fred Bolding was set up to purchase plows, tractors and bunk houses to enable the group

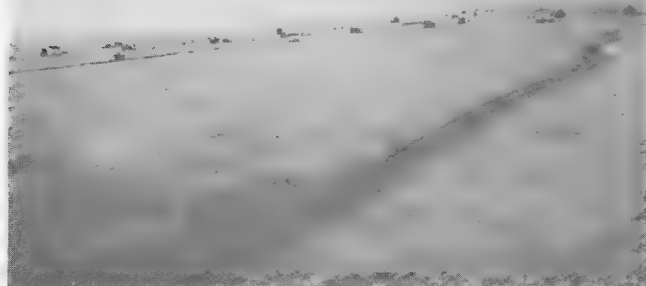
to start breaking the land as soon as possible. These steps were taken and in the middle of April they had purchased a new sixty-five horse power crawler tractor, had rented a fifty horse power from the Provincial Govt., had purchased a large truck, four plows and members had turned in a wheeled tractor, a small truck, an acetylene welder, and several head of cattle. The committee notified the members that they were ready to commence operations.

A book could be written about the first few days of pioneering, it is an experience the writer would never wish to have missed. There was a man from Cadillac, one from Lebreton and Lemsford, Eaton, Beverly, Kyle, Rosetown, Waldeck, Regina, Sceptre, Cabri, and Lacadena, all strangers ready to pioneer a new future for themselves and their families. The first night we borrowed a "caboose" from Mr. Pete Perrin and one from Mr. Nels Funk, one our sleeping quarters and one our "mess hall," we had a tent, a trailer and one granary 12' by 14' into which moved one member, his wife and three children and of course the first dog. The mingling of these personalities created a great deal of humor which will never be forgotten by the members. Already, after only six years the hardships are forgotten and in our memories live the pleasant highlights of this stage of development. There was the chap who couldn't start the new Diesel tractor because the "points" were not opening. The "Cat" was found to be very versatile, could be used for breaking, seeding and herding cattle. The conglomeration of old flivvers all in A-1 shape according to its owner. The pranks played during change of shifts on the tractor remind one of the old threshing crew stories.

In June of 1949 the Beechy Co-operative Farm Ass'n. Ltd. was officially incorporated with a new executive elected for a period of one year. Cyril Howell was chairman, Leslie Carefoot was Vice-Chairman and John Trew as Secretary. By this time the members realized they were fortunate in having three good carpenters in their group, namely Fred Slaney, Severt Egeland and Gus Furseth, a welder, Cecil Fraser and mechanics Cyril Howell, Al Craig, Ed Albinet and Hugh Goodwin, a shoe repairman Tony Lopeter, an experienced farmer Les Carefoot, and Fred Bolding a graduate of the Saskatchewan School of Agriculture. This group broke and worked down twenty-five hundred acres of breaking, built four granaries to be used as temporary living quarters, a slab barn and organized for the sowing of the first crop in 1950.

Beginning in July 1949 the members began looking for winter work, they had several of their wives teaching school at Beechy, Lacadena and Herbert, they had men doing carpenter work, garage work and even selling brushes. Somehow they all managed to survive the winter and reorganized in the Spring of 1950. As a result they planted 1900 acres of flax, 500 acres of wheat and some feed grain. The present building site was surveyed and the building program began. Four of the existing basements were built that year, along with 1400 acres more of breaking. In July of 1950 it looked

like the first crop would be a "bumper." However as history tells, the early frosts of August shattered the dreams of the members becoming financially sound in one year. There was of course the old farmers faith in the blood of these men and a 3800 acre crop was planted in 1951. There were the hardships of harvesting but all in all 1951 brought financial gains to the farm. 1952 and 1953 were both good crop years and with stable markets, economics of the Beechy Co-operative Farm should be sound.



Co-op Farm — 1955.

As in any group or type of organization there are many problems both social and economic and by no means are co-operative farmers unique in this respect. I have tried to show you what took place economically, in the foregoing, naturally one ties in with the other and in ordinary farm society your social status more or less follows your economic success or failure. In this new field of co-operative farming the members of the Beechy farm hovered almost on disaster. It was felt that complete independence was possible. As a result in the early years it was very difficult for good community effort and co-operation between the old established and the new residents. The natural "intermingling" and erasure of prejudices both within and without the farm are gradually bringing about the acceptance of the Beechy Co-operative Farm as a part of the Beechy community.



Grain stored on the Co-op Farm.

Turning now from the broader social aspect to the social development of the members of the Beechy Co-operative Farm we must remember that there were twelve conflicting personalities trying to adjust themselves to one another. Students of group development all over America (and there are many) readily admit that co-operative farmers have many more difficulties than do groups in ordinary society due to the fact of the "oneness" of all their activities. For example conflicting personalities in a curling club do not have to live and work together and consequently the majority rules. In a factory group the conflicting personalities are placed in different positions or shifts resulting in better harmony. On a co-operative farm they must adjust or continue to conflict. After four years of adjusting and experimenting the Beechy Co-op farm became split into two groups. Seven of the families remained in the present Co-op farm and five of the families are now farming a portion of the land to the southwest of the block on an individual basis. Both groups appear to be happier under this arrangement.



Working on the Co-op Farm.

During the first three years there were only two children of school age, these children were driven to Collins S.D. a distance of eight and one half miles. In 1952 a school district was formed and a school was operated on the farm for the next two years. The name of the school is "Wistful Vista." In 1954 the school was moved to the centre of the district and there are now seventeen children in attendance and fifteen children of pre-school age.

The Beechy Co-operative farm now has storage facilities for ninety-five thousand bushels of grain, a modern workshop, a carpenter shop, and recreation room, eight temporary basement suites for living accommodation, an office, a piggery, barn, milk house, power and street lights, a small herd of cattle and hogs, poultry for their own use and a full line of power equipment.

The women have played a far greater part in the development of the farm than is generally realized. They are the members who organize our social gatherings, smooth over a spat between the children — all the thankless jobs of mothers and wives everywhere. Had accommodation and finances been available to all in the Spring of 1949 so that the whole family could have been a part of the early development who knows what would have

been attained. When the members become discouraged and lose sight of the over all goal it is often times the woman who encourages, sees the brighter side and gives the needed strength to progress.

Life on the Co-op Farm has not been all work and no play, as each building is erected a housewarming inevitably follows. Music and entertainment supplied from within the farm. This factor perhaps led to some of the early community independence, however, as time goes on we see the farm membership becoming more and more a part of local activity in sports, entertainment and other fields of community life. The members of the Beechy Co-operative Farm feel there is a real future for themselves in their farm and in the steadily developing community of Beechy.

Horse Roundup – 1954

By PETE PERRIN

On August 11th, 1954, five riders, Bud and Earl Johnson, along with their grandfather Theo. Johnson, Pete and Lynn Perrin, started in on a roundup of horses, with the help of a jeep driven by Harold Johnson. A small enough job, they expected this roundup to be, to gather and corral at the Perrin ranch, a matter of only moving them two or three miles. This was a poor calculation. Later, it was proven that three times this number of good fast first class saddle horses were needed before those broncs would be where they had to look out through corral bars on the rugged terrain they has been so free on and loved so well.

Some years ago, Theo. Johnson, old timer of the Beechy district, with a soft spot in his heart for horses, turned a pinto stallion in with the mares on his ranch lease not far from the Herbert ferry. These were let run unmolested until they increased to about 50 head. Due to lack of human contact and handling, the younger off-shoots from those first gentle mares, became practically semi-wild, in just as wild a piece of river breaks to run in.

The start of the gather was not long under way when trouble began, small bands could be started in the general direction of the gate leading out of the field, but as soon as riders started closing in, the bands would break for the rough hills and ravines they knew so well, invariably led by a young stallion too proud to think of being subdued by a mere horseman. After much hopeless running, the gather was abandoned until afternoon when they added to their force, one more rider, Stan Hodgins. After much running in the p.m. it was decided to open the fence leading onto the ferry road and go with any number that could be forced through. On that push, most of them again broke away but with much chasing and yelling, some 20 head were forced through onto the ferry road. Hopes were high that these could now be corraled at Perrin's ranch, but alas! when nearing the corrals they seemed to sense the dangers of being captured and

broke away again, with the result that only about half of this band was corraled.

Next morning a trucker was on hand and nine head of these corraled ones were soon on the road for Swift Current, but not for long, trucking out on the west hill proved to be too steep, for when the horses crowded the rear of the truck, thus taking the burden from the front and lifting the wheels, it rendered them useless for steering, consequence was, his truck was cramped off and tipped over. That load though, must have rather enjoyed riding to replace the running, as they were not too hard to corral and reload to take another start on the ferry road for Swift Current and safely land there. However, the trucker, Russel LeVaviere from Rose-town had by this time decided he was through with the Johnson horses, so he made his first trip his last one.

More help had been added by the next morning. Collin Ringrose and Vern Berdan both being mounted on good strong hearted horses that were capable of a lot of good running. Poor devils of horses all riders were riding, what chance did they have? Running in hot weather climbing hills up to two and three hundred feet high, strewn with rocks from the size of pebbles to boulders, jumping cactus beds and badger holes.

A few more head were penned in the corrals, three head jumped the fence and into the clear in a large pasture to the north. A grey, four-year-old stallion took the east fence in his stride, to run back to the range of his choice. Summing the situation up, it looked as though the best hope of corralling the balance in the field was to outsmart them. This the Johnsons did very well, they built a corral in the field, well hidden in a grove of trees down over a very steep bank, the entrance to the blind looked innocently like a pasture gate that would take them to freedom, and so situated that the approach was on good level cultivated ground which would give saddle horses such an advantage over the type of ground previously forced to run on. Again a day was set and more riders arranged for. Good horses were being trucked and rode to the scene as though a western re-union. Added to the original riders before mentioned, was Roy Oliver, the Arntsen Bros., Dan and Charlie, Bob Hanley, Keith Taylor, Jerry Ringrose, Henry Dyck and probably other not called to mind by the writer. Apart from the mounted men, was a jeep driver Harold Johnson. This proved quite helpful at times for heading bunches on the higher levels anyone finding a saddle horse not thrilling enough, was welcome to a run in the jeep. Plans were discussed, riders scattered, mostly split into groups of 4 or 5 riders, some taking positions not too conspicuous and biding their time, laying in wait, till other riders may drive bands of horses past them that they may then take over and run with a fresh horse. A not uncolourful picture it was to see the riders scatter for the circle. See the uneasiness of the bands of horses. There! see that bunch on yonder pinnacle! Eight or possible 10 head, most all pintos, that black and white stallion with

the long mane and tail is their leader. He sees us, look at the head go up, ears to a point, he fills his lungs with fresh air. Hear that! A whistling snort of defiance, and we're nearly half a mile from them yet. He circles his little band and they are off, see those other bunches — down the draw? that snort put them on the alert and they are starting to move too. Look! there goes a beautiful six point buck deer out of that patch of buffalo berry bushes, everything is on the move.

Even with such a force, it was not easy, in such rough terrain that the wild ones knew so well, it was possible so many times for them to slip through between riders. A few of the really independent gave plenty of trouble. The grey stallion previously mentioned, was relayed by no less than six riders and must have run possibly 15 miles or more before being exhausted to the point where Perrin got a rope on him and Collin Ringrose just for a little self satisfaction rode alongside the grey and slipped from his saddle to its back, there he rode for a couple of miles or more. One black that was running by itself some little distance east, was defiant to the point that he never was brought in. Several riders relayed him and when he went down from exhaustion at the end of Danny Arntsen's rope, he was dead when the rope was slackened. One, the writer understands, running farther north where the travelling was smoother, was roped from the front of the jeep driven by Harold Johnson and the rope again in the hands of Danny Arntsen. Several horses were not put into the catch corral without being guided and pulled with the aid of ropes.

While loading one black horse, Theo. Johnson had it jump over the front of his stock-rack and down over the cab of his truck, luckily doing practically no damage to his truck. Surprisingly, after all the miles of running done by so many saddle horses, no one, to the writers knowledge, had a horse fall with him. A great tribute, I would think, to so many good horses, when it must be considered the type of ground they did so much running on.

Did someone say "Mission Completed," Hardly son, ride North, yeah — take the middle trail from the old Cruickshank Ranch, when you get out on top of the river breaks, maybe it's evening — Yeah — the moon is just coming up — see on yonder hill son — after all — a rather pretty silhouette three pinto horses — two stallions and one filly. Nearly as free yet as this light breeze that is blowing. If they see us son, they'll run. Why shouldn't they — to retain the freedom they have always known.



Theo Johnson's corral and the horses being rounded into it.



Incidents in the Lives of Settlers

Due to an unusually wet spring in the year 1927 harvest was much delayed and the snow came while the stooks were still standing in the fields.

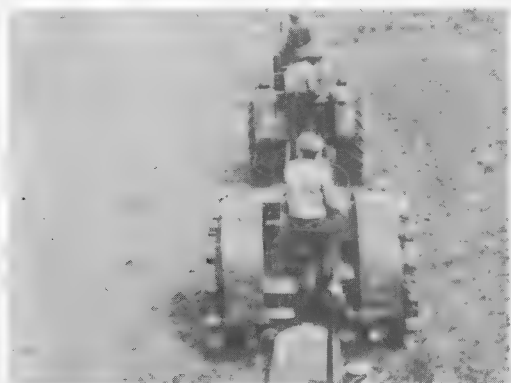
This was the last year the steamer outfit owned by "Dad" Howard was in use. These outfits required a good many men to operate them.

At one time during that particular fall Mrs. Covey had two crews to cook for which amounted to well over 30 men. The other outfit in use at the time belonged to Chris Rudd. The crew men were from out of the district and had not come prepared for the weather. When the snow came they tied gunny sacks around their boots in place of over-shoes.



Old-Time Combine

In the fall of 1921 the steel was coming to Beechy. Stan Commode, hardware man, bet Roy Bellows \$1.00 that a train would be in town before Christmas. Roy thought not. So they agreed the loser was to walk the distance between town and the Bellows farm to pay the debt. The first train came in on Dec. 21st. On Christmas day at 6 a.m. Roy Bellows walked 7 miles to town, paid the dollar, and walked the 7 miles back again. We bet it gave him a good appetite for his Christmas dinner.



Moving a house.

Soon after arrival in Canada in 1920 I came to this district as assistant in a rural store and post office. I was just getting acquainted with Canadian ways, when an Old Timer, who originally came from Sweden, got into conversation with me one day. After a while he said, "You know I think you talk English very well for only having arrived in Canada a few weeks ago, you sure must have learned fast. It took me and my wife years to understand the language." So right there we had a geography lesson regarding the location of Scotland and of English being the language in use throughout both Scotland and England. All I could claim was a bit of Scotch accent, which I'm told the Scotch never lose wherever they live.

In 1911 one settler's wife set off 1¼ miles to get acquainted with a new neighbour's wife. She had lived her life in a city in England and two years in Winnipeg, so prairie life was entirely new. The sun was getting low when she started walking home. After a quarter of a mile or so there was suddenly a howl to the left, followed by a howl over a hill to the right. She knew it must be coyotes, although she had never seen or heard one before. She froze in her tracks with fright. Then, she remembered a Canadian story read as a girl. Taking off her bright sweater she started twirling it round and round meanwhile saying to herself, "Don't run, don't run." But the coyotes converged and ran ahead from hill to hill. Only when in sight of home did she sprint, and how.



1915 Harvest with binders.

There was the homesteader west of Beechy who after he had seeded his land found that he had a load of grain left over and as his wife had not been off the homestead for more than a year he decided to take his load of grain to Wiseton some 40 miles or more away, and to take the good wife along also. His outfit consisted of oxen so they got everything ready the night before and left the farm at 3 in the morning heading for town. About 17 miles north there was a large spring which was known as the Blashall Spring and a small creek ran from this. When our friends came to this creek they decided to cross over and camp on the north bank to give the oxen a rest and have lunch themselves, but instead of keeping going until they were

on the other shore the oxen stopped in the middle of it and could not start the load again. So there they were in the middle of the creek with the water about 2 ft. deep and about 20 ft. from shore. No one likely to come their way, no sacks, no shovel. But they had a 5 lb. lard pail with their lunch in it and the good lady had on a stout cloth petticoat, so off it came. They tied the petticoat up with a bit of string, filled it with the lard pail and carried it across the creek piling the grain on a couple of horse blankets so none would be wasted. They had to unload about two-thirds of the load before the oxen could pull the wagon out. This took them so long before the oxen could pull the wagon out that they didn't get much further that day so they had to camp for the night on the prairie a few miles further on. But things like that were all in the game. It took them four days to make the trip but they really enjoyed it.



Threshing, 1915.

When we were children we owned a Grey Dort car. On its arrival home there was much rejoicing and we were so proud. It didn't take very long though for us to realize we were rejoicing too soon.

Two incidents stand out in my mind, although I suppose they couldn't be blamed on the car. Mother was the driver once and she wasn't too skilful as such at that time, but what she lacked in skill she made up for in nerve and confidence in herself. My dad had forgotten to get the wash water and as mother had intended to wash she decided to take the Grey Dort to haul the water. She put us girls and the boiler in the back and the pails and my little brother in the front. Then getting in herself away we went. She thought it would be a good idea to back into the deep end and save herself some steps. But once we got going we couldn't stop until the car was stuck fast in the mud. You can imagine the commotion! We kids were screaming and the boiler and pails all rattling and banging as we swooped down backwards. When the noise and din stopped, Mother took stock of the situation. We girls were still in the back hanging on for dear life and the water lapping at our chins. As the front seat didn't have too much water in it Mother was able to move

around and rescue us, and then the boiler which was trying to float away. Her next problem was to try and get the car out before Dad got home. However she was unable to succeed in that plan as our neighbours horses just couldn't budge it. So alas Mother had to wait until Dad got home to get it out and at the same time give her the lecture on women drivers she'd been trying to avoid.



Running Stook Loader with oxen — 1915

When Mr. George Esson first settled in the Collins district he had filed his claim for land through a friend who had land already in the district. So he didn't have the least idea where his land was situated. Nevertheless he bought his lumber for his shack and upon landing at the river found it wasn't solid enough to hold much weight so he brought his lumber across piece by piece hauling it with a rope. He managed to hire a man with a team of horses and had his lumber hauled to his land. Upon arrival Mr. Esson recalls he had a hammer, saw, and square and all the necessary material for building "his shack" but had no idea of how to do it. The man with the team of horses stayed long enough to get him started. By the time dusk was falling and Mr. Esson had started on the walls which were going up but not according to the law of building. Seeing his efforts were quite futile Mr. Esson started to look for neighbours and food as he had had nothing to eat since morning, but not knowing where to go he started East where he saw another shack. He found this one boarded up for the winter so with hunger pangs really gnawing at his stomach decided he'd go south until he reached the river and follow the river to the crossing. By accident a few miles south he found another shack and two men so they all ate heartily (slough water was mentioned) and the next day all hastened to get the shack up and habitable for winter. Then the three buddies journeyed to Herbert for food, stoves to set themselves up for the winter. Coming back up the river breaks the wagon tipped and one of the stoves belonging to Mr. Walter Stretch fell out and broke. Mr. Esson believes you can see it today. He used to visit this same Mr. Stretch during the

long winter evenings. Mr. Stretch played the bugle and when he knew Mr. Esson was coming used to play. Mr. Esson says the bugle guided his way many times. He used to go for his mail in the winter every week a matter of nine miles walking and coming back getting late at night would lose his way. One occasion he missed the trail and ended up where Mr. Cruickshank had stacks of hay. He'd follow one hay trail to another and end up at another hay stack. Eventually he found his way but says if he had been out much longer would have set fire to a haystack to keep from freezing.

Bert Moore set up his first radio in Demaine to the amazement and joy of many people. One night several men were asked in to listen to this wonder. After a short time Mr. Bang left the room, going outside. In a few minutes out went Mr. Erickson. Mr. Burrell, then getting curious as to the whereabouts of these men also went outside, and what did he find? Mr. Bang walking around the house reaching up and around with his hands, kicking around the ground with his feet, finally he said, "There's a wire here someplace!"

Then there was another hair raising ride for us when my folks decided to visit some friends on "the Flat." We had to go down the "Billy Bell" hill. Maybe some of you remember that hill. It had as many curves as the roller coaster at the fair. It was bad for a buggy and horse but with Dad driving that Grey Dort it was dangerous to say the least. Anyway we started down. After we were going pretty good Dad decided the brakes weren't going to hold so he tried to change to low gear. Of course once he got the car out of gear he couldn't get back into anything — so there we were with the brakes not holding and the car in neutral. By that time we were really sailing. We kids were so scared we couldn't even yell. It was nerve racking to hear Dad hollering "Whoa" and Mother crying "Andrew! Andrew!" to no avail. I must give Dad credit though. He steered that car down around those curves with the skill of a veteran. With our hair standing on end and our eyes bugged out we finally hit the bottom and with such a jar that every tire blew out, a fitting climax to probably the wildest ride that Grey Dort ever took. I don't know whether it was that try or not but it seemed to lose its spirit steadily and from then on practically every time we went some place we had to walk home. We kids were glad when the old thing finally gave up altogether and we went back to the buggy and horse. At least we knew we would ride home.

In 1909 Wallace Hungerford and Paul Court filed on their land. They came back late that fall to build their shacks and settle in for the winter. They had the lumber hauled from Brownlee. On

arriving they found snow had fallen and they were unable to locate the quarter-mounds indicating their respective homesteads. As their land joined one another they decided to guess at it and build. Thinking they surely would be on one or the other. In the Spring when they could find their exact location he who owned the site should claim the house and pay for the lumber. They hauled their supplies for the first winter from King's store at Lucky Lake by handsled. The snow was very deep and they sometimes wondered if they could manage to pull the sled the entire distance. Being afraid to leave it in case of a blizzard and having it buried they always managed to get home practically exhausted. When Spring arrived and the snow cleared, Paul Court found he owned the house and paid Wallace for his half.

Incidents in the Life of Roy Bellows

In 1914 I and Aslak Evjen went to Herbert with a team and democrat. When we got on the other side of the river it started to rain, so we decided to stop at Harder's. They were sitting upstairs with a light on, so we hollered up and asked if we could stay all night, and they wanted to know if we wanted something to eat. I said "No, just to get in out of the rain," "Alright," he said, "put your horses in the barn and come on in." We did get warmed up and finally went to bed. The next morning I got up early to take care of the horses. Soon Aslak came out. We saw an old horse standing in the yard but didn't pay any attention to him. We saw the smoke coming out of the chimney and I said I guess we can go in. We went in the house in the front room by the heater, sat down and talked. Pretty soon in came Mrs. Harder and she talked, but I couldn't understand a word of it. I knew she was mad, after awhile Mr. Harder said well that's too bad. She went out. He said "Do you know what my Mrs. said now. She's ashamed she hasn't anything for you men for breakfast. She had a bag of oatmeal, but the window pane was broken out of the kitchen so she put the bag of oatmeal in the window. Old Bob (the old horse standing by the house) came up and he took that bag of oatmeal out there in the mud and ate it," and he said "when the Mrs. got there, there wasn't much left. She scraped it up and boiled it, but she can't feed it to you men. It's too dam black."

We heard that old man Honeyset was sick and Bert Vikanes and I went over there with a team and sled. When we got on the school section, we saw a couple of men running around on the prairie and when we got there it was Alf Russell and Harry Honeyset. When we got there they said the Old Man had died. So we started to dig the grave. We put the sled by the side and hung up horse blankets for wind breaks. Bert Vikanes and I dug the grave that afternoon. That was the start of the Neasden Cemetery in 1913 or 1914. He was the first one buried there.



Mrs. Roy Bellows Invention

There were lots of things that happened in our homestead days that made us laugh and still could have turned out serious. Like the night I got up when one of the children was sick. I went to find the lamp and somehow I pushed it off onto the children's bed and broke the stem off of it and the oil spilled all over everything. Then it was a worry as to what I could use for a lamp. I said, "Well my Mother had always said, 'The Lord will provide,'" so I went to bed wondering what I would do. Then when morning came, I took a tomato can, washed it out. I soldered the brass piece on, put the burner on and there I had a lamp that I could set in the window. There were many times I used this and it brought many people to our place when they were lost. After that there were many lamps like that made out of jam cans. We'd take them to the school houses. Everyone had a lamp of some kind made up. All from my invention of course.

One Homesteader's Experience

In the fall of 1913 Jim Adams, wife, and small daughter Lillian, left Moose Jaw for their new homestead in Coteau Plains district. The nearest railway point was Wiseton thirty miles north. By some misunderstanding they took the wrong train, arriving at Outlook instead of Conquest. They were obliged to stay overnight at Outlook. Their problem next morning was how to catch — on time — the C.N.R. train to Wiseton. There was no ferry operating, and no finished traffic bridge. Phoning the Conquest livery man to meet them at that side of the river, they set out walking to meet him. So, on a cold windy November day, Mrs. Adams carrying her daughter hanging on to a very large hat laden with flowers which the wind did its utmost to blow away and Jim Adams trundling the baby carriage loaded with three heavy suitcases made a very difficult and treacherous crossing on the ties on the railroad bridge. They arrived at Wiseton on the same train as their carload of settlers effects. Then with one team of horses and loaded wagon started the thirty miles south. After travelling ten miles, they found a man on the road with a broken leg. Hauling wheat, he had got off the wagon to walk and warm up. In some way had slipped and the wagon had gone over him. His horses had kept on going to town. Luckily Mr. Adams had a piece of board on his wagon, on which he placed the man's leg, tying it with their scarves. Shortly, a man came along with a democrat and team and the man was on his way to medical aid. Mr. and Mrs. Adams then arrived on their homestead without further incident.

Mr. J. Crowley mentioned to us that during the war years social activities were held in Venndale and Jonesville schools. These consisted of box socials and dances for the Red Cross and was so often

instigated by the teacher Miss May Harriet (now Mrs. C. Powell) who taught in practically every school in the Municipality and at the time of this writing is still teaching school.

On one occasion Mr. Crowley going to Riverhurst with two loads of wheat went too far over the hill before stopping to put a rough lock on the trailing wagon. The horses, could not hold back the load, so, far down the hill the wagons went side ways broke the one hind wheel in each wagon and wheat and I got spread over the hill in the snow. I stayed at Belleheumer's that night, gathered up one load gave the rest to the party I stayed with for the night. He cleaned it up for his pigs.

Mr. Crowley remembers when Mr. Oliver had a big sod house east of Beechy. He being away for the winter Dad Spaulding was living in it and there were dances there most of the winter. George Whipper would come down from Demaine and play the fiddle. We took around the hat, the collections were sometimes very slim but everyone had a wonderful time.

Mr. Crowley tells of one time there was a sand bar in the middle of the river. Mr. John Evenson the ferryman was loading the ferry about half on the south side and tying some behind, so as when he got over the bar he could let the apron down and let them on when he got over the shallow water. Walter White tied his oxen behind, tied his wagon box down to the front bolster and they started across. The box started to float, raised the bolster and the king bolt and started sailing down the river. Louie Kuhlmer and someone else went after him in the boat caught up with him and made the rescue. In the transfer, White climbed over the side of the box and upset it, losing his groceries and a number of plow shares, quite a loss in those days.

On one occasion while Pete Laplante was hunting deer he had quite an experience. Having started out, stalked and shot a large buck, he laid his rifle down and with knife in hand walked up to bleed the deer. As he approached the deer it jumped to its feet and charged him. Pete grabbed the Buck by the horns but in doing so dropped his knife. The buck got one prong of his horn hooked in Pete's pant leg which gave Pete some advantage. They wrestled man against deer for what Pete figured over an hour until he finally regained his knife and with a final stab killed the deer. Had it lasted another ten minutes Pete said he would have given up. Being completely exhausted he laid down and was a few hours regaining strength enough to walk home. For those who knew Pete well they said it was the beginning of his end for he was never well after, and died a short time later much before the time his health should have failed him.

Page sixty

Many a pioneer has memories of crossing the Saskatchewan river and John Arntsen was probably no exception. However, one Spring as he was coming home from Riverhurst with supplies enough, he hoped, to last most of the summer with two outfits, one driven by himself, the other by Jay Turner. He was warned not to cross, but having to cross somewhere or wait a week for the breakup he ignored this and started to cross. He took off his Buffalo coat and stood up on the front of the grain box. He was all but across when his team broke through. In his fright he made a great leap, leaping completely over the team and made shore. Fortunately there were men on the shore and the water not deep enough to drown the team and they managed to get his team and sleigh load out of the river. He then went out with a pole and tested the ice further down until he found where the ice was solid enough to bring his other outfit ashore. Such was the determination of our forefathers who pioneered.

In 1914 Mr. Geo. Esson tells of hauling grain to Herbert and made 21 trips during one winter. He got 25c a bushel for hauling this grain for neighbours and would perhaps make enough out of one trip to buy a bag of flour as the room and board would be \$5.00 or more for a night. He also said the first winter he was in his lone shack in 1910 he used to take his unbaked bread to bed with him, get up in the morning, light the fire, thaw out the bread first and then bake it. He said nothing ever went to waste, you ate anything even a mere man would bake. He also recalls smoking tea when he ran out of tobacco.



RHYTHMAIRES



Original Poems



TO AN OLD BUFFALO SKULL

When our Maker made this country, he did a dang fine job,
Filled 'er up with trees and water, planted grass on all the sod.
Says He, "Now for some buffalo, and red-skins too, by jinks,"
Also some deer and antelope, with elk throwed in, methinks,
That way the country lay in peace for many, many years,
But the Maker hankered for some work, so He thought of more ideas.
Then beside the red came white men, and either color that could ride,
Went to shooting off you buffalo, and only, for your hides.
Next came the red coat Mountie, then the cattle men and cattle,
The poor damned Indians fought them, but like yours, a losing battle.
The Indians whipped, you buffalo gone, the cow-man ruled supreme,
This was a real God's country, had the grass, the lakes, the streams;
Then some galoot yells, "This soil's rich, let's introduce the plow,"
So the farmers swarmed and crowded out, the cow-boy and the cow;
The farmer now is striving hard to grow his spuds and grains,
But why old pal did they ever try, to farm where it seldom rains?
It sure hurts, when I stop to think, of all that well-grassed range,
Especially when a dust storm's on, what a dreadful shocking change;

I think that if the frontiersmen, that toiled in your days,
Could see the mess their range is in, they'd rise from out their graves.

So, as I've found you, old buffalo skull, while riding by your way,
I can only say, old timer, you're a relic of a better day.

—Composed by P. J. PERRIN, May 26th, 1938.

HEART OF THE GOLDEN WEST By BUD RAEBURN written in 1909

I know a land where the Golden Plains, stretch out o'er the great expanse,
Where the south west winds forever blow, and the simmering heat waves dance,
And the cattle graze on a thousand hills and the untamed mustangs roam,
And coyote's howl at the silver moon, in the sight of the settler's home.
I know a land where the settlers rode a creaking breaking plough,
And the settler's lad would wander far for the tinkling bell of a cow,
Then a prairie blaze that would last for days, then boy's you must do your best,
For those are the one's who deserve a home in the heart of the Golden West.
I know a land where the hearts are true and the souls of men are free,
And a man is known for what he is, not what he used to be.
If a man's a man he can lift his head and stand among the best,
So I long to go to the place I know, The Heart of the Golden West.

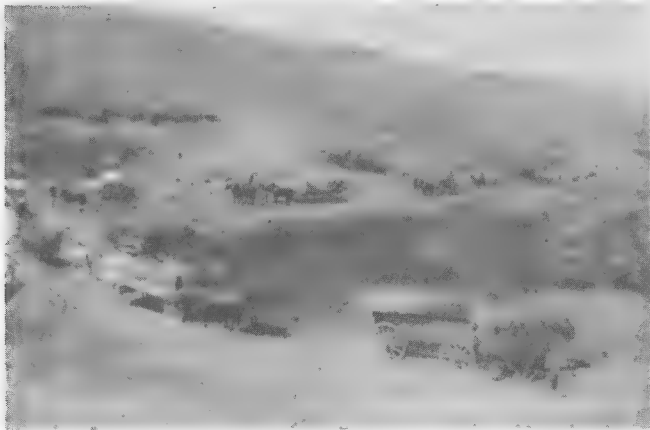
WANDERLUST By MRS. ALICE COVEY

There's an urge within that I cannot still,
And a cry to be out across the hill,
A wish to be out on the winding road,
Free from each burden and care and load.
There's a lonely feeling within my breast,
As the cry of an owl on its midnight quest,
There's a restless stir and an impulse deep,
Of an ancient custom I must keep.
And oh, to be off and far away,
Nor pause to rest at the close of day,
But wander forever as pleasure wills,
Through wooded valley and stately hills.

Through town and country without a thought,
All cares and worries quite forgot,
And find an answer alone somewhere,
To my inward and its secret prayer.

ORIGINAL POEMS

This poem was written in fun by two old timers
Hector MacKenzie and Walter Stretch during "The
Dirty Thirties" when so many moved up north to
Meadow Lake and other parts that looked greener.



The trek north in the thirties.

THE PROMISED LAND

When the wind blows o'er the prairie,
And old Sol is glowing down,
Your pocket-book is empty,
And your crop is all burned brown.
When the yellow mustard's blooming,
And the thistles three feet high,
The hot winds keep a-blowing,
And the wells are almost dry.

The cattle bawl with hunger,
And the horses lean and lank,
The pigs from dawn till darkness,
With their weird and doleful chant.
Oh, pity these dumb creatures,
And if only for "their" sakes,
Follow "Pete McLauchlan",
When he leaves for "Meadow Lake".

Russ Clark and Harry Chapman,
Will be marching side by side,
Herb Stretch and Lester Bowman,
Will be matching stride for stride.
The little Scotchman "Hector"
Will continue to do his share,
Maybe not with actual labour,
But with plenty of "hot air".

So rally round the leader,
And clasp his friendly hand,
He will lead you, if you follow
To that glorious promised land.

Did You Know?

1. That it wasn't uncommon for people in the early days to walk 15 miles or more to a party or get together and not be too tired to enjoy themselves!
2. That "Dad" Gowan was past 102 when he died and that he was 66 when he started to homestead here. Most of us are thinking of retiring at that age!
3. That Mrs. George Batdorf was the first woman in the Coteau Plains district. That was in 1911.
4. That there have been six generations of Collins in this district!
5. That we have had at least three local planes in this district!
6. That Ronning had the first store in the Coteau Plains district — 1915, 16 and 17!



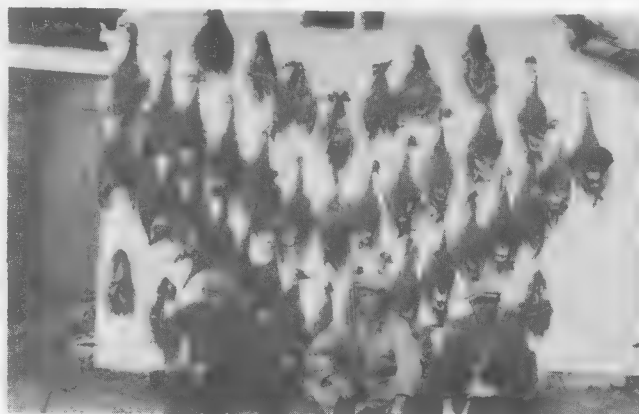
Coyotes as they used to be hunted.

7. That there was a sod house being lived in, in our district as late as 1942!
8. That Milly Robberstad and Ed Taylor were the first to be married in the United church!
9. That Carl Nerby had the first car in the district!
10. That in 1914 the west district had their first marriage between settlers — Maude Hungerford and Charlie Bellows!
11. That the first birth in the Collins district was Elsie Thurlow!
12. That "Smoky" Burrell of Demaine was noted for his baseball rooting. In fact he was quite famous for it in these parts. Many a player on the opposing team must have had murder in his heart, while the old Collins ball team and later Beechy and Demaine never failed to get a real lift when they heard his cry "Hot Dog", it was like music to their ears. We don't have rooters like him now!



After the chase.

13. That Hank King of Demaine was such a good pitcher that he was hired by Eston to play ball!
14. That Roll and Rome Rice were twins who both homesteaded here!
15. That thirteen pairs of twins and two sets of triplets have been born here!
16. That wagons were all equipped with brakes!
17. That people came for miles to buy rhubarb and other produce from Mr. and Mrs. Trowell. He had been a gardner in England!
18. That people bought large quantities of groceries by mail from the Neil Brothers. Do you remember the thrill when the order came?
19. That one of our early settlers used to hobble his oxen to hold back his wagon when going down hill!
20. That the line up for the first ball team in 1911 was Andrew Robberstad, catcher, Sam Flatagar, pitcher, Herman Heft, 1st Base, J. Paisley, 2nd Base, Jake Johnson, short stop, Ole Robberstad, 3rd Base, Charlie Hundedby, left field, Andrew Johnson, right field, Oscar Bailey, centre field. In 1912 Wallace Hungerford was added to the team and pitched most of that year. Wallace said his arm was never right after he pitched 18 innings at the Herbert Ferry.



Hunting around Beechy.



Jack Allen our first pilot who helped us out in so many emergencies.

21. That Lonnie Thurlow was the youngest child in Saskatchewan in 1929 to pass his Grade 8!
22. That Charlie Crossley almost got married. He says he asked her and she said No!
23. That Mr. and Mrs. Oram brought the first organ into the Neasden district. Geo. Irwin furnished the transportation and accompanied by Harry Garret they'd load up the organ and go places for a day or night of entertainment.
24. That the only stove in many early settlers shacks was a rancher two lid iron stove with the oven up in the stove pipes!
25. That the shanty or car roof of ½ inch resawn wood was put on double with tarpaper between. Then covered with rubber roofing paper which lasted for years!
26. That Bill Bryce in the spring of 1909 was the first man to file homestead and pre-emption west of Beechy, now the farm of George Schury!
27. That Mr. Jim Adams has been Secretary-Treasurer of the Coteau Plains S.D. since 1917 and still is!

Swathing, 1948.



Destructive Hail Storm, 1953.

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY №226
VICTORY
W. OF 3RD**

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FIRST DEMAINE SCHOOL CLASS



Autographs

Autographs



